Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Confers Solidarity Order on Soviet Envoy 1
Rodriguez Attends Reception for U.S. Cardinal 1
Request To Host UN Congress on Crime Submitted 1
Dominican Group Visits, Lays Wreath 1
Briefs 1
Internationalists Awarded 1

Grenada

High Court Hears Motion in Bishop Murder Trial 1

Haiti

Problems Noted in Miragoane Customs Procedures 2
Cost of Land Leasing in Northwest Protested 2
Peasants Refuse To Pay Taxes 2

MEXICO

U.S. Not To Bring Charges Against Gen Poblano 3
Government Willing To Reduce Oil Exports 3
Lawmakers Meet Cuban, New Zealand Counterparts 3
Human Rights, L.A. Discussed 3
Briefs 4
Guatemalan Trade Agreement 4

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Arias on Peace Prospects in Nicaragua *[Lisbon EXPRESSO 9 Apr]* 5

El Salvador

Duarte: Ochoa Statements 'Arrogant Position' 5
UNTS Rejects U.S. 'Intervention' in Panama *[ACAN]* 6
Coprefa Reports 7 Guerrillas Killed in Clashes 6

Guatemala

'Discontent' Within Armed Forces Denied *[PRENSA LIBRE 21 Apr]* 7
Cerezo on C.A. Peace Process, Parliament *[Madrid YA 17 Apr]* 7
Military Attache in Bogota Commits Suicide *[Madrid EFE]* 8

Honduras

Armed Forces Warn People Against Demonstration 8
Protest Dispersed *[ACAN]* 8

Nicaragua

Reaction to AID Contra Assistance Delivery 9
Envoy Recalled *[AFP]* 9
Protest Notes to U.S. 9
Note to Honduras 9
Alfonso Robelo Comments on Possible Return *[Lisbon EXPRESSO]* 10
Contras Kidnap 14 Peasants Near Las Pinuelas *[BARRICADA 21 Apr]* 11
Contradictions Within Contra Ranks Cited *[BARRICADA 20 Apr]* 11
LA PRENSA Raps FSLN-Contra Talks Critics *[19 Apr]* 12
Blames FSLN for Embargo *[LA PRENSA 20 Apr]* 13

Panama

Envoy to Israel Lt Col Herrera Dismissed 13
U.S. 'Ready To Begin' Clandestine Broadcasts 13
Mexico Guarantees Oil Supply to Country *[CRITICA 21 Apr]* 14
Delvalle Expresses Support for U.S. Measures *[Bogota EL TIEMPO 13 Apr]* 14
Esquivel Requests Latin American Support 15
Commerce Minister on Economic Recovery 16
PALA's Sieiro Urges Solution Through Dialogue 16
Opposition Accused of Spreading Rumors 16
Teachers Protest at Education Ministry 16
Government Media Fires Three Journalists *[AFP]* 17
Briefs 17
Youth Group Established 17

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin Meeting With Abrams, Walters 'Cordial' 18
Spokesman on U.S. Arms, Spare Parts Talks 18
Deputy Calls for Inventory of British Assets 18
Deputies to Submit Resolution on Panama 19
Columnist on Understandings With Cuba, Angola *[LA PRENSA 19 Apr]* 19
Authorities Confirm Heavy Water Spill 20
Spokesmen Confirm Sourrouille Death Threat 20
Further on Break Up of Group of 'Terrorists' 20
Helicopters Found 21
Federal Judge Closes National Alert Office 21
No Casualties in Bomb Attack in Mendoza 21
Bomb Partially Destroys Vehicle Near Cordoba 21

Bolivia

MBL Proposes Aranibar as Presidential Candidate 21

Brazil

Sarney on Need for Modern, Integrated Economy 22
Bolivian Foreign Minister Signs Agreements *[La Paz]* 22
USSR Interested in Brazilian-Made Computers *[VEJA 20 Apr]* 23
Businessmen on Negotiations With USSR *[O GLOBO 19 Apr]* 23
Fourth Increase in Fuel Prices Implemented 23

Chile

Pinochet Discusses Opposition, Plebiscite 23
Pinochet Not To Intervene in Railway Strike *[EFE]* 24
Officials on State of Exception, Plebiscite 24

DINACOS Answers PN Criticism of Government 25
'Socialist Command for the No Vote' Established *[ANALISIS 11-17 Apr]* 25
PRN Expels Vice President; Split Threatened 25
Media Time Guaranteed for Political Parties 26
Vicariate Reports Rights Violations Increase 26
Ministry Raps PDC Member on Bolivian Sea Outlet 27
Bomb Blast in Peldehue Kills 2, Injures 2 27

Peru

Shining Path Kills Lieutenant Governor *[EFE]* 27

Uruguay

Tupamaros Weekly To Rent Radio Air Time 28

Venezuela

Borders Reinforced Against Drug Traffickers 28
COPEI Nominates Presidential Candidate 28

Guyana

Strife in Conservative Opposition Group 28

Suriname

Archbishop: Government Studying Rebel Proposal 28

Cuba

Castro Confers Solidarity Order on Soviet Envoy

FL2204024188 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] In Havana Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has conferred the Solidarity Order on Aleksandr Kapto, Soviet ambassador to Cuba.

Present at the solemn ceremony were Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, other PCC Politburo and Secretariat members, and officials from the Soviet Embassy in Cuba.

The Solidarity Order was awarded by the Council of State to Ambassador Kapto on the occasion of his permanent return to the Soviet Union. The Council of State says that the high distinction was presented to the Soviet diplomat for his support and personal contribution to strengthening the friendship, solidarity, and fraternal cooperation between Cuba and the USSR.

Rodriguez Attends Reception for U.S. Cardinal

FL2104143088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has attended a reception for New York Archbishop John O'Connor hosted by the apostolic nunciature. The cardinal is in Cuba to carry out various religious and civil activities.

Request To Host UN Congress on Crime Submitted

FL2104024088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Today Cuba presented its request to host the eighth UN congress on crime prevention and treatment of criminals, scheduled for 1990. Havana hosted the fourth Latin American meeting on criminology in 1986 and an international course on the matter was held here in 1987, during which specialized jurists from various continents discussed social and economic aspects of crime prevention.

Dominican Group Visits, Lays Wreath

FL2104210688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] A floral wreath was placed at the foot of the Maximo Gomez Monument this morning. A delegation from the Dominican Association of Animal Production paid homage to the Generalissimo Maximo Gomez. The Dominicans, who are basically cattle breeders, are attending the Alfa 88 meeting.

[Begin recording] [Speaker] Today we are honored to place this wreath at the foot of the monument because one is honored when one pays tribute. The spirit of a Dominican answered the call of a Cuban friend. When he was told that he might lose his life, that was the time he most positively responded and was willing to shed his blood for a brother country, for brothers who, although they are not from the same island, are of the same race. [end recording]

Briefs

Internationalists Awarded

The Ernesto Che Guevara Order, second and third degree, has been awarded to 7 internationalist combatants during a ceremony to mark the 27th anniversary of the Giron victory. Those honored were: Raul Casero Castillo, Hector Cue, Ezequiel Tejeda, Roman Cabrera, Anselmo Llero, Abel Fernandez, and Jorge Fabelo. Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the PCC Provincial Committee in Havana City, presented this major award. [Text] [*FL2004133388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Apr 88*]

Grenada

High Court Hears Motion in Bishop Murder Trial

FL2004223088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2144 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpt] St George's, Grenada, April 20, CANA—The defence called their first witness on Wednesday as the Grenada High Court began hearing a constitutional motion brought by the 17 persons convicted of the 1983 murder of Former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The witness, Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, is a Jamaican lawyer who has been retained by the state to defend the former officials in their upcoming appeal against their convictions.

Justice James Patterson is hearing the motion, which seeks to have the trial declared a mistrial and nullity and questions how the jury was selected.

Of the 17 convicts, only eight were present—former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, Leon Cornwall, Colville McBarnette, Vincent Joseph, Callistus Bernard, Ewart Layne, and John Ventour.

The judge said he expected the others to be in court on Thursday, noting their absence was due to a failure to give the necessary instructions to prison authorities on time.

Fourteen of the defendants including the two Coards were sentenced in December 1986 to hang for Bishop's death while three others were given stiff prison sentences.

Samuels-Brown was called to give testimony on defence claims about massive constitutional breaches committed by the state against the 17. Her evidence focussed on alleged bias shown by the trial judge Dennis Byron, and the selection of the jury for the case. [passsage omitted]

Haiti

Problems Noted in Miragoane Customs Procedures

FL2104211788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Report by correspondent Yves-Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpts] The Haitian Government is impoverished. Employees cannot even get paid each month because the state coffers are empty. That is why a good part of the population would be happy to see a decision made on the way things have been done for some time now in the port of Miragoane.

However, we must point out that vessel owners, important vendors, and other individuals have to wait every day for four or five customs employees to come from Port-au-Prince. These employees arrive late, sometimes at around 1400.

Meanwhile, the general customs administration has as yet been unable to hire a few serious young men for Miragoane customs, which needs lots of personnel in order to keep up with all the work.

As soon as the Port-au-Prince customs employees leave in the afternoons, things go topsy-turvy in the port of Miragoane. For example, along the coast, on the islet, on Rue (Richet), on Wednesday, 20 April, between 1800 and 1900, merchandise was being transported via a most circuitous path. [passage omitted]

We also heard later that there is a boat allegedly belonging to the godfather of contraband carrying 50,000 sacks of sugar and that this vessel refused to pay one million gourdes in taxes, or $4 in taxes on each bag of rice. [sentence as heard] We were told that the owners of this shipment refused to pay, even when customs proved willing to lower the taxes.

In an attempt to pressure customs, to pressure Haiti, they reportedly said the loaded vessel is going to return to Miami with all the merchandise, which is hidden out at sea far from town.

We think there should be surveillance. The ball is in the Haitian Navy's court, which should get hold of a proper vessel to sail in.

Cost of Land Leasing in Northwest Protested

FL2004224588 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The news in the northwest is being made by the peasants. In Baie de Henne and on the Ile de La Tortue, the peasants are asking the nation's authorities to lower the cost of leasing public lands.

The situation is toughest in Baie de Henne. The peasants are complaining a lot and they are asking Prime Minister Celestin to put in a word for them because taxes seem to be increasing daily. In the 1930's they used to pay 7.5 gourdes in taxes for several carreaux [land measurement equal to 1.29 hectares]. Now, in 1988, the tax is 750 gourdes. [passage omitted]

What is worse, they stress, a group of people with power and money that can afford to pay is given advantages and pays less.

The same goes for the Ile de La Tortue. The peasants say they are not going to pay any taxes or any leases at all because La Tortue never benefits from any projects. Also, they say they didn't vote for any magistrate, either, so they are having nothing to do with any of this.

The magistrate is complaining. He has put out a press release over the radio asking the peasants to pay. [passage omitted]

Peasants Refuse To Pay Taxes

FL2104203588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Report by Port-de-Paix correspondent Theodore Megalos Axius]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The communal administration and tax offices in Ile de La Tortue are overwhelmed with problems because the peasants refuse to pay taxes.

There is a group of people on Ile de La Tortue that has been refusing to pay for the leasing of public lands for the past 15 years. These people claim Papa Doc gave them their homesites during the big drought on Ile de La Tortue in the 1960's when they were unable to pay. The tax officers have asked to see the documents proving that Duvalier gave them the land.

This movement to refuse to pay for the leasing of public lands (?or any other lands) has spread all over the island since 7 February 1986.

Communal and Tax Office employees on Ile de La Tortue are encountering many difficulties in bringing money into the state coffers.

U.S. Not To Bring Charges Against Gen Poblano

FL2104223188 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0320 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Today the Mexican Attorney General's Office [PGR] today that the U.S. Government will not take any action against General Juan Poblano Silva because there is no proof to substantiate the allegations of his activities in drug trafficking. The PGR added that U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Charles J. Pilliod recently told Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez that the United States would bring no charges against Poblano Silva, who heads the 25th Military Zone in the state of Puebla.

As has been done in similar cases, the PGR has asked the U.S. Embassy in Mexico and the Mexican Embassy in the United States to supply proof substantiating the accusations.

Gen Poblano Silva was accused by several U.S. publications of being involved in drug trafficking. In view of the U.S. Government's refusal to make formal accusations, the matter is considered to be settled.

Government Willing To Reduce Oil Exports

FL2104161088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0236 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Today the Mexican Government announced its willingness to voluntarily reduce its oil exporting program to contribute to the efforts being made by crude producers to stabilize the international market.

This was reported by the Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry [SEMIP], but it was noted that this action will be implemented as long as an agreement is reached with other producers to bring about reasonable and lasting recovery of prices. The SEMIP added that Mexico is convinced a concerted and immediate production restriction is needed to recover the level of short-term prices. The secretariat stressed that this stand is in line with what President Miguel de la Madrid has asserted regarding international oil policy. Our country is promoting a serious approach and strict compliance with the commitments made.

As it has so far, Mexico will continue expressing its position in a sovereign manner and cooperating with the efforts made by other oil exporting countries to promote as much dialogue as possible and reach an agreement that will help maintain reasonable levels as regards international oil prices.

The SEMIP reported that its secretary, Fernando Hiriart Valderrama, and Pemex officials will represent Mexico at the OPEC meeting in Vienna and together with other independent producers will present the commitments they are willing to make. [passage omitted]

Lawmakers Meet Cuban, New Zealand Counterparts

FL2104210088 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0232 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 19 Apr (NOTIMEX)—In light of the serious effects drug trafficking is having on the life of people all over the world, we need to head toward a global struggle against drugs instead of merely a political one. This was asserted in a communique issued prior to the beginning of the Mexico-Cuba interparliamentary meeting. The document was read by Jorge Montufar Araujo, head of the Mexican delegation.

In the communique, legislators from the two countries noted that rather than the ruthless and direct pressures Mexico is being subjected to, what its powerful neighbor really needs to do is to grant the country preferential trade treatment so that all fields can be used to harvest food and to produce other raw materials and finished products.

For their part, Mexican Deputies Antonio Tenorio Adame (PRI), Martin Tavira Uriostegui of the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), and Alejandro Gascon Mercado of the Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) agreed that drug smuggling is being used as a weapon and a new kind of interventionism that distorts the legal framework of international law and reflects the deterioration of the U.S. capitalist society.

Likewise, they asserted that the fight against drug trafficking does not pertain to Mexico alone but to the United States and all other countries.

Cuban Deputies Luis Mendez Morejon, head of the visiting delegation, Fernando Rojas Avalos, and Zenaida Osori said no country should interfere with the sovereignty of nations and stated that drug smuggling does not exist in their country. [passage omitted]

The Mexican parliamentarians also held a working visit in the Chamber of Deputies with their New Zealand counterparts. Legislators from the two countries discussed extensively the international economic situation and the need to develop bilateral relations to find solutions to problems such as inflation and the foreign debt.

The New Zealand legislators, headed by David J. Robinson, showed interest in the actions of the Mexican Government and people regarding the September 1985 earthquakes and praised them for returning to normal in record time. [passage omitted]

Human Rights, L.A. Discussed

FL2204013488 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2347 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Today during the second day of their first interparliamentary meeting, Mexican and Cuban legislators said that no country can

assume it has a monopoly on democracy. At the meeting in Mexico City, the parliamentary delegations analyzed the human rights situation in their respective nations and they agreed that legislative action was necessary to completely guarantee these rights.

During a break in the activities of the legislators, Nicolas Reynes Berezaluce, president of the Grand Commission of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, received the parliamentarians in his office. He noted that Mexico and Cuba have always been close.

Immediately afterwards, Reynes Berezaluce presented Luis Mendez Morejon, secretary of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], with a book from the first course on Latin American parliamentary law.

For his part, Mendez Morejon said his talks with his Mexican counterparts have been characterized by identification, comprehension, a community of interests, and a fraternal atmosphere. He presented Deputy Reynes Berezaluce with a copy of the Cuban Constitution, as well as a copy of the recently-approved civil code of the new Cuban penal code.

Once the bilateral meeting resumed, the two delegations continued to study the human rights situation, Latin American unity, tourism, and labor legislation in the two countries.

For their part, the Mexican deputies—Jorge Montufar Araugo, Antonio Tenorio Adame, and Louis Orci Gandara of the PRI, as well as Jesus Galvan Munoz of the PAN [National Action Party], Martin Tavira Uriostegui of the PPS, and Alejandro Gascon Mercado of the PMS—presented an extensive review of human rights in Mexico, as well as the policies the Federal Government is implementing in defense of these. They said that Mexico has been unjustifiably judged by foreign governments who have a narrow view of human rights in Mexico. They agreed that an analysis of this phenomena is needed to satisfy housing, health, education, and environmental needs; in brief, to ensure equality and economic justice.

The leader of the Cuban delegation said that human rights are respected in his country. Cuba has a penitentiary system which guarantees the basic rights of the 436 inmates arrested for counterrevolutionary crimes through 15 April of this year. [sentence as received]

Mexican deputy Tavira Uriostegui of the PPS said that Mexico and Cuba should play an important role in the efforts for Latin American unity so that the nations of the continent can raise their voices on the foreign debt problem at international forums and speak against the imperialist penetration of colonial enclaves which harm the dignity and territorial integrity of Latin America.

Deputy Salvador Ramos Bustamante discussed the exchange of labor and tourism legislation. He stressed that it is important for the parliamentarians to have greater bilateral exchange based on the great expertise accumulated in these areas.

Deputy Gascon Mercado of the PMS proposed that the joint declaration include a statement by the Mexican Chamber of Deputies and Cuba's ANPP supporting peace and sovereign respect for all countries. He also said that the U.S. Government should demonstrate by action that massive policies are being implemented to end and strike down the consumption of drugs in order to obtain the cooperation of other peoples in their crusade.

The meeting will continue tomorrow, Thursday. It has been reported that the joint communique will be issued on Friday, just before the two delegations depart for Zihuatanejo, Guerrero.

Briefs

Guatemalan Trade Agreement

Mexico and Guatemala agreed to create a binational enterprise to commercialize their products and increase sales to other countries. Yesterday National Foreign Trade Bank Director Alfredo Phillips Olmedo and Guatemalan Economy Minister Lizardo Sosa Lopez signed an agreement with the purpose of promoting trade between both countries. The trade balance between Mexico and Guatemala currently broadly favors our country, which imports an amount equivalent to 10 percent of what it exports to that Central American nation. [Excerpts] [*PA141627 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Apr 88*]

Costa Rica

Arias on Peace Prospects in Nicaragua

PM211353 Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 9 Apr 88 (A REVISTA section) pp 38-39

[Interview with President Arias by Carlos Gil; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] EXPRESSO: What are the main obstacles which could wreck the Esquipulas plan and cause it not to achieve its aims?

Oscar Arias: Right now the main obstacle is the lack of will...

EXPRESSO: On whose part?

Oscar Arias: On the part of both sides to find a solution through dialogue.

EXPRESSO: When you speak of both sides, are you also referring to some Central American presidents?

Oscar Arias: I am referring to the need for more flexibility on the part both of the governments and of the guerrilla forces in order to reach a cease-fire.

EXPRESSO: It has been said on various occasions that the Sandinist regime is a threat to the other Central American regimes and to U.S. interests. If they carry out the Esquipulas agreements, does the "threat" cease? To put the matter another way, one of your aims, Mr President, with respect to the region's politics was "to force the Sandinists to give in," and you added: "Those nine commanders who govern Nicaragua are a danger to the region because of their links with the Soviet bloc." Well, the Sandinists have now given in...

Oscar Arias: As we all know, Sandinism's ideology is Marxism. Obviously, it is an expansionist ideology.

But I believe that the day the Nicaraguan people have the opportunity to express their wishes through genuinely free elections they will not choose the Sandinists to govern Nicaragua, because they have already demonstrated their inability to rebuild the country.

So far the war has been a kind of excuse. More specifically, the contras have been the excuse to justify the failure of the Marxist experiment in Nicaragua.

Therefore, on the day we secure a cease-fire and bury the weapons Nicaragua will able to use no more pretexts with respect to a people who are suffering hunger as never before in Nicaragua's modern history. This is basically because communism is not the best option for an underdeveloped country like Nicaragua.

EXPRESSO: Despite being defeated in Congress, President Reagan continues to threaten to help the contras by whatever means. Are you also going to ask the U.S. President to stop covert aid to the Nicaraguan Resistance, just as you will do with the USSR and Cuba?

Oscar Arias: I do not believe there will be new military aid to the contras.

EXPRESSO: Have you made any diplomatic efforts for Nicaragua and United States to meet in a direct political dialogue?

Oscar Arias: Yes. If we succeed in making more progress in carrying out the agreements concluded in Esquipulas, in Guatemala, and we secure a cease-fire, if we move in the direction of a democratization in Nicaragua and the Sandinist government soon grants an amnesty to the thousands of prisoners filling Nicaragua's prisons, then it will be possible for the Washington administration to show greater readiness to talk directly with the Sandinist government.

EXPRESSO: There is said to be a Reagan administration plan for invading Nicaragua. It reportedly comprises three military options: a full-scale invasion of the country, a specific attack on important targets in Managua, and destruction of the port of Corinto, through which the Sandinists receive about 80 percent of their imports. What would this mean for the other countries of Central America—indeed, for the whole of Latin America?

Oscar Arias: The idea of a U.S. military invasion of Nicaragua does not exist in the mind of any government official. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Duarte: Ochoa Statements 'Arrogant Position'

PA2204002288 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Report by Regina Canas; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President Jose Napoleon Duarte has described recent statements by ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] leader Sigifredo Ochoa Perez as dangerous for democracy.

During a news conference, Duarte referred to his last year in power and said he will not allow any steps backward in the reforms implemented by his administration.

Duarte rejected statements by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez about the war and about the High Command's actions during the elections. Duarte described the call for insurrection that, according to some reports, the former colonel made as an arrogant attitude by ARENA that harms the democratic process:

[Duarte] "I believe it is an arrogant position. You saw an example of this when they did not want to allow vote recounts. Such an arrogant attitude shows the danger to which democracy is exposed. This kind of situation exists all over the world. It has been said that this is a rebellious attitude typical of a coup d'etat, an insurrectional attitude that destroys the [words indistinct] and destroys the democratic options of power. You can thus imagine the seriousness of the things this man is doing."

Referring to the new composition of the Legislative Assembly, Duarte said it is necessary to seek an agreement among the three forces represented at the Assembly. Duarte said he will call on the new deputies to exchange views, which will help to better integrate the legislative and executive branches. President Duarte said, however, that he will not permit any changes to the reform plans that have been already implemented:

[Duarte] "I do not know who started trying to disrupt power this year. For a law to be enforced, however, it has to be approved by the Assembly and ratified by the president. If the president does not approve of a law, he vetoes it. If the president vetoes a law, it can become law only when two-thirds of the Assembly passes it again. This is a way whereby any action against the nation can be dealt with legally."

The result of the 20 March election, described by many as a vote against the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] government, was viewed by President Duarte as the people's response to the prevailing circumstances. According to Duarte, the government has been blamed for economic problems, including the increase of basic grain prices as a result of the drought:

[Duarte] "The people simply wanted the crisis to be resolved. If I had accomplished the miracle of resolving the crisis, the people could have decided whether or not I had succeeded."

The future replacement of U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr by William Graham Walker was termed by Duarte as a routine process and not as a reaction to a U.S. foreign policy failure, as various groups, including the rebels, maintain.

Commenting on the selection of the PDC presidential candidate, which will happen late this month, President Duarte declined to endorse either [Julio Adolfo] Rey Prendes or Dr Fidel Chavez Mena, claiming he gives his total support to the party's unity.

UNTS Rejects U.S. 'Intervention' in Panama

PA2204022788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2225 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) members assembled in front of the Panamanian Embassy to express their solidarity with Panamanians and to reject U.S. intervention in the region.

Some 150 UNTS members peacefully assembled in front of the Panamanian Embassy in El Salvador to express their solidiarity with that country and to demand that Panama's crisis "be resolved by Panamanians."

UNTS, an organization that opposes the Salvadoran Government and that reports having more than 250,000 members drawn from more than 100 organizations, stated that the United States "is not allowing Panamanians to resolve their own problems."

According to UNTS, Ronald Reagan administration's intervention in Panama's internal affairs can be understood if we are conscious of the fact that the United States is refusing to return the Panama Canal at the end of the century, a return stipulated in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

UNTS leader Humberto Centeno said that "Panamanians have a right to decide their fate, and the Salvadorans also have that right."

Centeno, who is one of UNTS executive directors, reaffirmed that "the Panamanian crisis has been caused by U.S. intervention."

Coprefa Reports 7 Guerrillas Killed in Clashes

PA2104133688 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Coprefa report]

[Text] Coprefa hereby announces that seven FMLN guerrillas were killed in combat yesterday, including two female terrorist leaders in San Miguel Department. In addition, an explosives factory was dismantled in the northern part of Chalatenango Department.

The report says the women, identified by their noms de guerre Morela and Gertrudis, were killed along with three other terrorists in a clash with units of Arce Battalion in a place located between Las Araras and (Vadebobo) in San Gerardo, San Miguel Department.

In the vicinity of San Jose Cancasque, Chalatenango Department, another guerrilla, known as Professor, was killed when his group clashed with units of the Sumpul Batallion, 1st Military Detachment. The armed encounter took place during combing operations being carried out by the Army in that zone. Meanwhile, the Treasury Police reported that another FMLN guerrilla died in combat in the vicinity of Ayutuxtepeque, northwest of San Salvador.

Regarding the assembling of mines, the Atlacatl Battalion reported that in Quebrada El Chiste, in San Fernando township, Chalatenango Department, government troops discovered a pit topped with metal sheets and covered with hay, with the following items inside: 1 M-3 rifle, 27 antipersonnel mines, 2 Claymore mines, 7

packs of TNT, plastic containers with aluminum powder, nitrate, black powder, 60 yards of polymer tubing, 25 yards of wire, and other materials used in the manufacture of explosives.

The Atlacatl Battalion also reported that at midday yesterday, seven terrorists, who were carrying out subversive activities in the northern part of Chalatenango Department turned themselves in to government troops. The report adds that the FMLN deserters handed over an M-3 rifle, a (?belt), three pistols, an Uzi submachinegun, magazine clips, and surgical instruments and medicine. According to the report, a soldier was wounded in an armed encounter with a group of terrorists in El Encumbrado canton, near Agua Caliente, Chalatenango Department.

Terrorist mines caused three more civilian casualties. Elena Castillo Duran and minors Daisy Yanira Castillo and Mario Roberto Polanco suffered serious injuries caused by a terrorist mine. The tragic incident occurred yesterday at 1500 in the vicinity of the (Somayate) River, which serves as the demarkation line for Apopa, north of San Salvador.

Guatemala

'Discontent' Within Armed Forces Denied

PA2204042588 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Apr 88 p 4

[Text] Yesterday presidential spokesman Julio Santos said that it is not true that there is discontent in certain sectors of the Armed Forces because they are now an integral part of the government.

This is how the public official replied to a group of reporters who asked about the uneasiness expressed by several military men who consider the arrival in Guatemala of guerrilla leaders an insult.

Santos said that the Army respects the laws of the country in order to strengthen the legal government and it respects the decisions made by the executive branch or the National Reconciliation Commission, in the case of the exiles.

In our country we have a separation of powers. Therefore, decisions made by other government organizations are respected, Santos added, referring to the cases of Rigoberta Menchu and Rolando Castillo Montalvo.

In a television newscast, a military man who fought the guerrillas in the mountainous areas of El Quiche said that Menchu and Castillo Montalvo were welcomed as heroes.

The military man said, among other things, that this situation is an attack against the honor of the military, who fought face to face with the enemy.

Cerezo on C.A. Peace Process, Parliament

PM220920 Madrid YA in Spanish 17 Apr 88 p 12

[Interview with President Vinicio Cerezo by J.F.Dorrego; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City—[Dorrego] What are the implications of the Sapoa agreements, which have been received outside the region with a mixture of skepticism and hope?

[Cerezo] Something is being achieved that previously there was no hope of achieving. The situation in the Central American region necessarily prompts us to seek a foundation for agreements among all the countries with a view to establishing a negotiated peace. This peace will enable us to be more independent, less dependent on the East-West conflict, and to use our resources for the purpose of development.

[Dorrego] Your proposal of a regional parliament is receiving the approval of several countries of the region. What task do you believe this parliament should perform?

[Cerezo] The Central American parliament is essential to the peace process. There are several reasons for such a parliament: First, it will bring us together in a regional election; second, it will mean the establishment of an institution for dialogue; and, last, it unites us in political continuity. I believe the accords will be approved by the end of this year, and this is a very important step.

[Dorrego] Apart from this positive prospect, other more negative prospects have also emerged. Recent events such as the military maneuvers in Honduras seem to justify doubts about the strength of the Esquipulas II process.

[Cerezo] There is only one real obstacle to the peace process. It is the emphasis that some U.S. political sectors and conservative Central American sectors place on a military solution.

[Dorrego] What does the implementation of the Esquipulas II agreement mean for Guatemala? What is the Army's position with respect to the guerrillas?

[Cerezo] Our Armed Forces' position is very clear. If the guerrillas want a confrontation they will have it, and I can assure you that our Army is very efficient. However, if the sectors still under arms in inaccessible areas return to the normal political process the Armed Forces will accept it. By now everyone in Guatemala is tired of violence, which has had no positive result and has caused only great damage.

[Dorrego] There has been talk of Mexican support for the guerrillas. Is this true?

[Cerezo] In such cases there is always some truth and some fantasy. What is true is that there are no guerrillas anywhere in the world that can function without outside support. Mexico provides neither weapons nor logistical support. In the past Mexico has probably not shown much concern for controlling arms trafficking, but I believe this situation is changing because our country's stability is in Mexico's interests.

[Dorrego] The anti-guerrilla struggle has been surrounded by something of a controversy over the role of the civilian patrols created during the military regimes. What is the status of these patrols?

[Cerezo] We are not going to disband the patrols. It would be a mistake not to use such a major organization for positive purposes. What has happened, however, is that there have been very major changes in the functioning and organization of these patrols. The armed struggle has disappeared from every area where these patrols exist.

[Dorrego] Could the implementation of the peace accords on the isthmus entail the sending of a military force to Central America?

[Cerezo] It could indeed. We have examined this possibility, which has been accepted by three countries—Spain, the FRG, and Canada—which were chosen to conduct this assessment. If a situation of extreme conflict occured the five Central American countries would accept the sending of an international force composed of military units from those three countries. These particular nations were chosen because of their impartial stance with regard to the Central American conflict.

Military Attache in Bogota Commits Suicide

PA2204035688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0320 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota, 21 Apr (EFE)—General Jose Luis Diaz Munoz, Guatemalan military attache in Bogota, who arrived in Colombia 1 week ago, committed suicide today, police sources reported.

The 50-year-old diplomat committed suicide by slitting his throat with a scalpel in a bathtub in the embassy, where his body was found by his driver, Alfonso Duque, the sources added.

A note was found alongside his body which said: "Please, do not blame anyone because I am so depressed I can no longer stand it."

The police began an investigation to totally clear up the circumstances of the diplomat's death.

Honduras

Armed Forces Warn People Against Demonstration

PA2104182788 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1635 GMT 21 Apr 88

["Official communique" issued by the Public Relations Directorate of the Armed Forces in Tegucigalpa on 21 April]

[Text] The Public Relations Directorate of the Armed Forces reports to all citizens:

1. On orders of the Armed Forces high command, national Army patrols have joined the security work of the Public Security Force [FUSEP] with the sole aim of maintaining order, security, and the peace of the citizens.

2. It has been learned that criminal and terrorist elements linked to extreme leftist organizations plan to provoke disturbances and actions outside the law during the announced public demonstrations scheduled to be held this afternoon.

3. We ask all citizens, especially parents, to refrain from participating or permitting their children to attend these types of demonstrations, which are manipulated by professional agitators who irresponsibly use children and youths to commit vandalism and acts that violate the law, mora[illegible]nd traditions.

4. We reiterate that the FUSEP and Army members have gone to the streets exclusively to maintain the confidence, security, and peace of honest and responsible citizens. For that reason, many of us would appreciate your cooperation with these noble and unselfish individuals who protect you.

Tegucigalpa, 21 April 1988

[Signed] Public Relations Directorate of the Honduran Armed Forces

Protest Dispersed

PA2204025188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0125 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today police and Army troops used tear gas and fired shots to disperse a demonstration of some 1,000 people who were heading for the U.S. Embassy.

It is not known officially whether there were any dead or wounded, but it has been reported that some 40 demonstrators were arrested. [passage omitted]

This afternoon's demonstration was organized by the People's Organization Coordinating Committee and a student alliance to protest violations of the country's Constitution. [passage omitted]

The march was dispersed on a bridge near the embassy, and some soldiers fired at a group of people, including reporters, but no one was injured.

The demonstrators burned several copies of the Constitution and demanded that U.S. troops stationed in Honduras (1,200 soldiers) and Nicaraguan "contras" be expelled from the country.

Nicaragua

Reaction to AID Contra Assistance Delivery

Envoy Recalled

PA2204034388 Paris AFP in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 21 Apr (AFP)—Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, has been recalled by his government for "consultations," following the delivery of humanitarian aid to the contras by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID).

The report was made to AFP by a Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry source, who said that the diplomat will be arriving in Managua tonight. [passage omitted]

Protest Notes to U.S.

PA2104132588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1223 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Protest note sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on 20 April]

[Text] Mr Secretary of State, U.S. AID spokesman Roger Noriega has confirmed the delivery of the so-called humanitarian aid to the irregular forces in Honduran territory. This is an open violation of the letter and spirit of the Esquipulas II and the Sapoa agreements. The Nicaraguan Government strongly protests this irresponsible conduct by the U.S. Government, 1t which not only systematically sets up ostacles to the fulfillment of such agreements, but openly pressures counterrevolutionary leader Enrique Bermudez and other leaders of the irregular forces into rejecting the Sapoa agreements and into carrying out terrorist actions against the Nicaraguan people.

This policy followed by your government continues to endanger the territories of Nicaragua's neighbors. In this case Honduran territory is being used as a base for moves contrary to the desires for peace expressed by the Central American presidents as stated in the Esquipulas II agreements.

On previous occasions the Nicaraguan Government has denounced and firmly condemned the maneuvers conducted by your government aimed at providing aid to the contras in violation of international laws and the Esquipulas II and Sapoa agreements. The Sapoa agreements themselves clearly state that the humanitarian aid shall be channeled through neutral organizations. Obviously an agency belonging to a government that has financed, armed, and directed a brutal aggression against Nicaragua is not a neutral organization.

According to the Esquipulas II agreements, the only permissible aid should be aimed at helping those people who used to belong to irregular forces return to normal life; therefore, humanitarian aid should be given to the irregular groups that have concentrated in the areas stipulated in Point No 2 of the Sapoa agreements, in the context of a process aimed at achieving the return to civilian life of the members of such irregular groups. Such concentration of forces must be confirmed by the commission in charge of verifying the Sapoa agreements.

Any other condition or method for delivering humanitarian aid is not only incompatible with the principles agreed upon, but promotes the continuation of the war and creates conditions that prevent Honduras from fulfilling its commitment to prevent the use of its territories by people, organizations, and groups who are trying to destabilize other governments.

Sincerely

[Signed] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman

Note to Honduras

Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Protest note sent by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras; date not given]

[Text] Mr Minister, I address Your Excellency in reference to the authorization your government gave to the U.S. Administration, through AID, to deliver, quote, aid, unquote, for the rebel forces in Honduran territory.

This authorization was given in a press communique issued by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat's Information and Press Directorate on 19 April 1988.

The Nicaraguan Government vigorously protests that Honduras is once again violating the spirit and letter of Esquipulas II and interfering in the implementation of the agreement signed in Sapoa, becoming a part of the U.S. Government's maneuvers, the sole objective of which is to sabotage the peace efforts.

As Your Excellency may recall, according to Point No 5 of the Esquipulas II agreement, an indispensable factor to achieving peace is the suspension of any kind of aid to the rebel forces, except for that aimed at repatriating, relocating, or assisting those who were members of these rebel groups or forces to resume a normal life.

Logically, such exceptions do not apply to armed groups that are inside Honduras and that are openly saying they will ignore the Sapoa agreements and will continue terrorist actions against Nicaragua.

I must mention that Honduras' unilateral reactivation of the suit begun by Nicaragua at the International Court of Justice [ICJ], through a request for the establishment of a date for the next hearing, is aimed at seeking a pretext to continue to refuse to establish permanent mobile units in Honduran territory that would carry out the necessary on-site verification of the compliance of the security agreements in accordance with the Guatemala procedure and the declaration signed in Alajuela.

I must inform Your Excellency that a copy of this note is being sent to the ICJ.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest consideration.

[signed] Miguel D'Escoto Brockman

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister

Alfonso Robelo Comments on Possible Return
PM211153 Lisbon EXPRESSO in Portuguese 9 Apr 88 (A REVISTA section) pp 36-37

[Interview with Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] Directorate member Alfonso Robelo by Carlos Gil in San Jose, Costa Rica; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] EXPRESSO: Will the Resistance return to Nicaragua in order to take part in the national dialogue? And will you be the first to go?

Alfonso Robelo: Only if the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance Directorate agrees. I have already tried to go to Nicaragua on two occasions in the past 4 months. Nicaragua's Embassy always denied me entry because it wants to force me to accept its amnesty, and that has a very high political cost.

I told them that, yes, I will return to Nicaragua, but in the same way that Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora returned to El Salvador; without dissociating myself from the struggle and under the Arias peace plan.

EXPRESSO: Could this decision of yours to switch from being an active RN Directorate member to ordinary work in the political area be a first step in that direction?

Alfonso Robelo: Yes, it could... My eyes are on Managua. Allow me to take the opportunity, since we are broaching this issue, to mention an enormous difference between the RN and the Sandinist Front positions with respect to the cease-fire.

The FSLN believes that the cease-fire is an intermediate step toward an unconditional surrender by the RN forces. We believe the cease-fire is indeed an intermediate step, but in the direction of a democratization with guarantees.

The crucial point is this: What does the FSLN mean by democracy or political changes to guarantee democracy? And what do we mean by all this?

In our opinion, the main obstacle to democracy in Nicaragua is the interlinked Sandinist state-party-Army axis. Until this is broken many changes may be made on paper, but nothing essential will be changed. We, who already know the Sandinists well, will not be reassured, and we hope President Arias and the other Central American presidents will not be reassured, either.

EXPRESSO: Let us assume that that axis is not broken, as you say. What will the RN do under those conditions?

Alfonso Robelo: In that event we would have to demand the condemnation of the Sandinist Front by the politicians who are promoting the peace plan. The responsibility rests essentially with Presidents Oscar Arias, Vinicio Cerezo, Azcona, and Napoleon Duarte, but also with U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Jimmy Wright. It is they who must realize that they deprived us of the instrument of military pressure.

EXPRESSO: Will the Resistance lay down its weapons?

Alfonso Robelo: Let us back up a little. The Bay of Pigs in Cuba was a landing; it either succeeded or failed. This is not the case with the RN. Within Nicaragua there are 15,000, 20,000 fighters, 70 percent of whom are active. There is a considerable military presence, but it is not concentrated; it is divided into 40 regional commands and over 200 combat units. Within Nicaragua the Resistance's struggle is a guerrilla struggle.

But now, because the Americans have deprived us of vital supplies, we are starting to weaken gradually.

EXPRESSO: That will have grave repercussions on the anti-Sandinists...

Alfonso Robelo: Obviously, it is a hard and severe blow.

EXPRESSO: Were you expecting this?

Alfonso Robelo: No. Our main enemy has been the U.S. yo-yo policy. It gives us aid, deprives us of aid, gives us aid, deprives us of aid... It is impossible to maintain effective military pressure with this U.S. policy. It is incredible what the RN fighters have suffered because of this. We will have neither boots nor ammunition; there will be many who will give up, losing all hope. Some will seek refuge in Honduras, others in Costa Rica. Others

still will reconcile themselves to the internal situation, but I believe that two-thirds of the fighters will stay in the struggle. [passage omitted]

EXPRESSO: The Sandinists have sometimes asserted that the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie are reaching the point of asking officials of the U.S. Embassy in Managua when the U.S. troops will come and save them!

Alfonso Robelo: I disagree, I do not approve; we do not seek an invasion by U.S. troops, nor is it necessary. It is we Nicaraguan democrats who say to them: "Gentlemen, help us," but it is we who are fighting. When we were fighting against Somoza, people such as Torrijos, Carlos Andres Perez, and Fidel Castro helped us. I know of no revolution that can be carried out without outside aid.

EXPRESSO: Despite everything—and I have been able to confirm this in Nicaragua now—the opposition can survive with relative freedom, unlike in El Salvador and Guatemala, where the extreme right-wing "death squads" kill opposition politicians with impunity. Where is the danger for the opposition in Nicaragua?

Alfonso Robelo: I acknowledge that this is true; I am not blind or reactionary. [passage omitted]

EXPRESSO: Despite saying that the Sandinist regime is Marxist-Leninist and dictatorial, there is no other socialist regime where there is political pluralism, a mixed economy, elections, and freedom of information...

Alfonso Robelo: What you say is true; I acknowledge it. No socialist country tolerates a newspaper like LA PRENSA. That is true. But it is partly because they have not yet been able to consolidate the totalitarian regime.

EXPRESSO: You agree to take part in that Nicaraguan blueprint of a mixed economy, party pluralism...

Alfonso Robelo: Of course. Why, I took part in that revolution and helped to write that government plan! Yes, definitely.

EXPRESSO: The whole Nicaraguan Resistance?

Alfonso Robelo: I cannot speak for others; I speak only for myself.

Contras Kidnap 14 Peasants Near Las Pinuelas

PA2204003788 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] In recent days, counterrevolutionary groups have kidnapped 14 peasants in areas north, northwest, and southeast of Las Pinuelas, a town approximately 100 km north of Juigalpa.

The people of Las Pinuelas have publicly denounced this violation of the Sapoa agreements.

They say that the kidnappings took place on 13, 16, and 17 April when three, seven, and four peasants, respectively, were kidnapped.

The names of eight of the victims are: Pedro Jose Torres, Pablo Davila, Jose Davila, Gregorio Trejos, Pablo Mejia, Guadalupe Torres, Pedro Rodriguez, and Joxty Mendez.

Contradictions Within Contra Ranks Cited

PA2104172788 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Apr 88 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text] The internal contradictions within the ranks of the counterrevolution and the evident lack of power to make decisions among the leadership of the organization became evident during the meeting in Managua. They claim that to achieve a total and definite cease-fire they must first reach an agreement with the Nicaraguan Government regarding the "democratization" of the country.

The extension of the period of negotiations and the agreement on another meeting are also the result of the excuse to ignore the Sapoa and Esquipulas II agreements that establish that political negotiations can take place only within the country's legal and constitutional framework.

The issue on the negotiating table is, and continues to be, the way to end the mercenary war. After this is achieved, political and other matters will be discussed through means and mechanisms established and guaranteed by the Republic's Constitution.

The only way in which they can join the country's political life is by laying down their weapons and accepting the constitutional guarantees offered by the government. The only way to gain their quota of power will be by presenting their own political platform and convincing a sector of the population to accept it, because the military option is doomed.

Therefore, trying to draw attention away from the negotiations to achieve a total and definite cease-fire by means of a political discussion on democracy is nothing more than playing the Reagan administration's game of winning time to extend the war.

The people achieved power with their weapons and later institutionalized it through elections, because there are only two ways to attain power or a quota of power: the armed struggle, in which the revolution has proved its strength; and the political struggle, for which an unprecedented process and democratic conditions have been developed.

The Sapoa agreements are the best evidence that the armed counterrevolution faces a crucial decision: either cling to the Yankees' warmongering policy and sink with it, or join the country's political life with the status that it might attain from its supporters.

The second alternative is more convenient for the Nicaraguan people and the contras, themselves; and the people will freely exercise their political rights to determine which program and which model of democracy is favored by most of the Nicaraguans and, of course, which side they support.

Washington, the contras, and the extreme-right sectors have nothing new to offer. They still have the same program they had before 19 July 1979, which is the same one they adopted in the 1970's. They barely comprised 1.1 percent of the population, mostly people who only finished elementary education at Las Jinotepes School, where 100 percent of the students had tuberculosis.

The Sandinist revolution emerged with its program for democracy on 19 July; its programs for the education, health, and agrarian reform sectors were recognized by the international community; it held the first free presidential elections in 1984; and it carried out the process to prepare and approve the Magna Carta.

It is time for the Reagan administration to assimilate this historical truth because, like Vietnam and other free nations, there is no turning back. The reasonable thing is to establish relations between civilized nations and civilized relations within every nation.

Therefore, the expression "lack of democracy" should not be used as a wire to tie up a reality that is leading toward the immediate termination of the war and the total and definite agreement for a cease-fire, so the contras may put down their weapons and join Nicaragua's independent social and political life.

If the contras are really as "democratic" as they claim—even though they have revived the National Guard's dictatorial structure and even though the no less authoritarian CIA directs them—all they have to do is participate in the 1990 elections.

Or perhaps they will back off again?

LA PRENSA Raps FSLN-Contra Talks Critics

PA2104123488 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial: "A Victory for the People"]

[Text] After 72 hours of intense negotiations at the Camino Real Hotel in Managua, the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] signed a simple communique in which—in an apparent failure to reach an agreement—they point out that the talks will continue on 28 April.

This communique scarcely put the Sapoa agreements back on their course after the setback on Sunday, 17 [April], according to statements made by both sides.

Everyone knows that the Sapoa agreements have had enemies in the warmongering RN sectors as well as in the dictatorial and totalitarian sectors that characterize the Sandinist party. The Sapoa agreements also received a cold welcome from the country's more extreme factions of the opposition political parties because, for different reasons, many of them have criticized and minimized the agreements, because they did not see any hope in them.

The Sandinist commanders have been in charge of pointing out the Christian names and surnames of the agreements' most important "boycotters" within the RN ranks. Meanwhile, the process' enemies within the Sandinist government have identified themselves.

They are the ones who have continued the use in public, in private, and in the media of a language that provokes hatred, because it is a voice in open opposition to the peace and national reconciliation that is sought.

They are the ones who have continued the massive recruitment of Nicaraguan youths, despite the fact that, since 23 May [as published], there has been a truce in the nation's war. They are the ones who refused to give the newspaper LA PRENSA freedom of expression, breaking the Sandinist government's commitment to guaranteeing unrestricted freedom of expression.

They are the ones who continue mobilizing the "mobs" against any expression of dissent against totalitarian dictates. They are the "notebook mobs," [turbas de libreta] which do not respect independent thought.

Nevertheless, despite all these efforts to boycott the Sapoa agreements, apparently "moderate" sectors of the Nicaraguan Government and the RN yesterday reached an important decision.

They agreed to continue talking in Managua on 28, 29, and 30 April, while maintaining the truce agreed upon on 23 March. Instead of breaking off the talks because more agreements had not been reached, the delegations meeting at the Camino Real Hotel had the maturity and wisdom necessary to promise to continue resolving this civil war by means of negotiation and dialogue, thus preserving the lives of thousands of Nicaraguans.

At Managua I, reason and wisdom prevailed over the folly of power and the irresponsibility of strength. The decision to resolve their differences like civilized people gained strength at the Camino Real Hotel, and that is a great victory for the Nicaraguan people.

Blames FSLN for Embargo

PA2204032888 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial: "The Two Embargoes"]

[Text] President Ortega has linked foreign aid to Nicaraguan democratic institutions to the lifting of the economic embargo the United States imposed on Nicaragua in May 1985.

This announcement was made Monday afternoon at the most recent Sandinist Party rally, held during working hours and using state-owned trucks for clearly party-related purposes.

We know that this embargo—against which this paper wrote editorials since the day it was imposed but whose publication was censored by the Interior Ministry—has been both unjust for the Nicaraguan people and highly profitable for some Sandinists.

By setting up private corporations in Panama, the Sandinist leaders have managed to evade imperialism's punishment by importing goods and spare parts the country needs, yet at the same time they leave a trail of corruption with well-known bribes.

The Nicaraguan people pay for these operations, not only with the additional cost of taking the goods to Panama and from there to Nicaragua, but also with the profit the Sandinist enterprises make and with the thanks for General Noriega's friendly cooperation.

Consumers, entrepreneurs, and producers have also had to defray the cost of the economic embargo. They have resigned themselves to purchasing European and Japanese machinery, which is much more expensive than U.S. products because of the strength of those countries' currencies relative to the U.S. currency.

Summing up, the U.S. economic embargo against Nicaragua has both chastised the long-suffering Nicaraguan people and rewarded the Sandinists' private coffers.

We disagree with the economic embargo, yet we know it was brought about by a worse embargo, one imposed by the FSLN at gunpoint and ratified through the Constitution. It is an embargo against the Nicaraguan people's freedom, democracy, and peace.

Confronted with this, we must be realistic. Unless we tackle the embargo's causes, the colossus of the north will not consider lifting it.

The lifting of the political embargo the FSLN imposed on the Nicaraguan people 9 years ago is the key in Ortega's hands to end the U.S. economic embargo against Nicaragua.

The democratic Nicaraguan people, who are being sacrificed by both sides, must continue to be in "permanent session" until both embargoes are lifted.

Panama

Envoy to Israel Lt Col Herrera Dismissed

PA2104170088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1611 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have discharged Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera, Panama's ambassador to Israel, "for not following orders from headquarters," it has been reported.

Today FDP spokesman Martin Alberto Paz confirmed to ACAN-EFE the dismissal of Herrera, considered the successor of former Panamanian "strongman" General Omar Torrijos Herrera.

The military man, who has served in the military institution for over 24 years, was the one who directed the antiriot operations against opposition sectors during an unsuccessful demonstration 10 months ago, which was called "Black Friday" by the opposition.

On that occasion, it was believed that FDP chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega, by appointing Herrera to direct the antiriot operations, was trying to discredit the image of the military man, who was considered the future commander of the institution.

His comrades in arms also described him as an intelligent and educated man, who was respectful of military regulations.

Meanwhile, there are strong rumors about the possible retirement of Major Leonidas Pretelt, military attache at the Panamanian Embassy in the Repulblic of Korea.

Pretelt is the brother of Enrique Pretelt, owner of one of the most luxurious jewelry stores in this country and who was linked to international drug trafficking by Jose Isabel Blandon, former Panamanian consul in New York and a former Noriega military adviser.

U.S. 'Ready To Begin' Clandestine Broadcasts

PA2204020188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0050 GMT 22 Apr 88

["Today's World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The United States is now ready to begin broadcasts from a clandestine radio station on a ship stationed off Panama's coasts. The objectives of this clandestine radio are:

1. To jam Panama's Radio Nacional.

2. To incite the Panamanians to rise up and to protest because the calls by the Servile Crusade [play on name of Civic Crusade] has been ineffectual since Jun[illegible].

This station is a further violation of the canal treaties. It is a new act of indescribable aggression by a world power against a small country that is not its enemy but is simply defending its rights and trying to guarantee the fulfillment of commitments involving fundamental gains for this country.

How on earth can the Reagan administration support a clandestine radio in Panama when there is no war, when there are no hostilities, and when no reprisals have been taken that might justify the presence of troops and the number of measures that have been taken against us? Commerce Minister Mario Rognoni has talked about granting exceptions to U.S. firms, not of penalizing them when they evade taxes.

This people's cordiality and clear stand could not be altered by all the pressures that have been brought to bear. They are now going to resort to using a radio station, believing that harangues will make the people rise up, while at the same time jamming Radio Nacional. If they try to jam Radio Nacional, Panama will jam the clandestine broadcasts from the ship off its coasts or from some point in the Canal Zone. [passage omitted]

Mexico Guarantees Oil Supply to Country

PA2104183588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 21 Apr 88 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed article]

[Text] In accordance with a conversation between Mario Rognoni, Panamanian commerce and industries minister, and his Mexican colleague, the mines and energy secretary, Mexico will continue supplying oil to Panama in accordance with a document signed at a special SELA meeting held to try to seek mechanisms of economic cooperation with Panama.

Mexico is making the same efforts with Venezuela through the San Jose Pact. In this way, all forms of oil supply to Panama will be guaranteed so the Panamanian refinery will not suspend its operations.

The first shipment of oil to Panama will leave Mexico on 23 April.

Today the Mexican Embassy in Panama informed the Panamanian Government of the solidaristic decision to strengthen the links of fraternity that have united the two countries for many years.

In the last few days, Mexico and Panama have been the subject of U.S. Government verbal aggressions and threats, because the U.S. Government cannot accept the policy of self-determination and noninterference the Mexican Government has always practiced.

The Mexican Government stated it will live up to the letter and spirit of the SELA agreements because that will help Latin American unity grow.

Similarly, the Mexican Government reiterated that it will continue exercising its foreign policy in accordance with the principles of cooperation and peaceful coexistence within the scope of its capabilities. Mexico is absolutely convinced it must help the peoples of sister nations while respecting their decisions and realities.

Delvalle Expresses Support for U.S. Measures

PA2104191788 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Apr 88 pp 1, 12A

[Report on interview with Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle by German Arango Ulloa; date not given]

[Text] Panama City—Ousted Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle has said from hiding that he has never resigned and that the U.S. economic pressures on General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime are producing good results. He also said that it will not be long before the so-called "strongman" falls.

In an exclusive interview granted to EL TIEMPO, the former president also expressed confidence that Panama will be able to recover in a brief period from the crisis caused by the U.S. embargo.

The telephone interview with Delvalle was obtained after a long series of contacts with foreign corespondents in Panama, Washington, Miami, San Jose, and Bogota.

The former president, who was ousted for having dismissed Noriega, said, among other things, that the United States had been initially deceived by the general.

"When they (the Americans) became aware of Noriega's deceit and two-facedness," Delvalle explained, "they thought things over and decided it was time to stop trusting him. Nevertheless, I cannot say the Reagan administration is to blame. I also made the same mistake."

[Arango Ulloa] Is it true that you presented your official resignation as Panamanian president to the U.S. Government because you disagree with President Reagan's policy of economic pressure?

[Delvalle] At no time have I resigned. I was ousted through a treacherous act that was orchestrated by a Legislative Assembly favorable to...submissive to Noriega. After I, as commander in chief of the Panamanian military forces, dismissed Noriega, he called the Assembly members and convinced them. I do not know if he offered them money or what.

It is strange...really very strange that an assembly that up to then had been loyal to the president—at least a high percentage of its members were loyal—suddenly turns around and expresses support for an individual who is against democracy...I do not understand it. Therefore, I could never have presented my resignation to those who are now against the constitutional order.

[Arango Ulloa] Press reports indicate that you have expressed your discontent to the U.S. Government over the way that the Noriega issue is being handled in Panama. It was said that in view of this, you would rather not continue being recognized as president by the U.S. Government...

[Delvalle] Look, that is not true. Of course I agree with the actions undertaken by the United States. Noriega is like a disease for Panama. Diseases often require drastic treatments.

Listen, if you have gangrene in your foot and it is going to spread to the rest of your body, you have to cut off your foot before that happens. You cannot begin to worry that afterwards you will have to use crutches or an artificial limb. You have to act right away...and the leg must be cut off.

The same is true concerning Noriega. If to get him out there must be economic sacrifice, that must be done. The important thing is to eradicate the main evil because we will gradually resolve the lesser ones.

[Arango Ulloa] Mr President, do you really believe Noriega is going to yield to the U.S. pressure? We ask this after learning here in Bogota that many stores in Panama have reopened their doors, that the Civic Crusade is divided, that...

[Delvalle] Look, Mr Journalist, excuse me for interrupting you but I cannot stay very long on the telephone because the intelligence services, the G-2 of Noriega, can trace the call...

[Arango Ulloa] Yes, only one last question...

[Delvalle] Look, Noriega is falling little by little. He is going slowly...but surely. It will not be long before he totally falls. Regarding the stores in Panama, I am not quite sure that many are really open. Regarding the division that you mentioned, this is the first report that I have on this matter. I have the impression that you are not well informed about the situation in Panama...

[Arango Ulloa] Well, that is what the news agencies say...

[Delvalle] Yes, yes, I understand. We do not know how true the things foreign correspondents say are. It is not because they are telling lies but because they cannot tell the whole truth. You understand me? Well, in any case, I do not think the Civic Crusade is the only opposition force in Panama. For example, the common people of Panama have yet to express themselves. Most of the political leaders have remained silent but now...now that they are going to feel the effects of the pressures more acutely, they are also going to exert pressure. That is when Noriega will fall.

Esquivel Requests Latin American Support

PA2104182488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1340 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 21 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Today deposed Panamanian Vice President Roderick Esquivel said that the gradual return to democracy in Panama has experienced a "serious setback" because of the "dictatorial ambition of one military man, who wants to govern the country by force to satisfy personal interests."

In an "open letter addressed to all the Latin American peoples and governments," Esquivel said that Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega controls all Panamanian sectors. ACAN-EFE had access to the letter today.

Esquivel was dismissed from his post by the Panamanian Assembly early in the morning on 26 February. He was the country's vice president while Eric Arturo Delvalle was the president of Panama. Esquivel was dismissed a few hours after then President Devalle dismissed Gen Noriega so investigations concerning public charges of drug trafficking and murder against Noriega could be conducted. In his letter, Esquivel states that "besides maintaining an inexplicable control over the FDP officers, Noriega also controls our Supreme Court of Justice, the comptroller general's and the attorney general's offices, the executive branch, and a large sector of the legislative branch."

According to Esquivel, Gen Noriega also controls all the mass media, except for those that were closed down because they had refused to follow his orders—including the newspapers LA PRENSA, EL SIGLO, and EXTRA; and Radio Cadena Exitosa, Radio Continente, Radio Mundial, and Panavision Television. The letter adds that Noriega uses his power and the country to conduct "his illegal businesses" and to maintain "a facade before the world." He wants the world to believe he is leading a constitutional government that has social goals such as defending Panamanian sovereignty from the United States.

Esquivel adds: "Noriega's dictatorship has impoverished the country and has brought shame to the Panamanian people. His criminal quarrel with the United States has nothing to do with Panamanian sovereignty."

On the contrary, Esquivel says. His problem with the United States reduces the strength of Panamanian sovereignty, "because Noriega is a military man, who obtained the power he holds in a de facto manner when he was dismissed by our constitutional president, and who has turned us into hostages in our own homeland."

Roderick Esquivel says that "people must not use any kind of subterfuge in this historic situation to try to disguise the reality of the Panamanian people and the fact that Manuel Solis Palma's government is nothing but a shameful instrument used for the most criminal and vile local and foreign businesses."

I ask "our Latin American brothers" not to abandon us in this "black hour." Esquivel also asked the Latin American nations to express their firm and clear repudiation of "the illegitimate Noriega-Solis Palma government through all possible means."

Similary, Esquivel demanded "solidarity" with Eric Arturo Delvalle's constitutional government, "which is exerting its mandate in secrecy" after the "usurpation" of power and of all the country's resources by Noriega and Solis Palma.

"As the U.S. democracy and other European democracies are helping Panama recover its freedom and dignity, we hope the Latin American democracies will raise their voices without euphemisms to express their solidarity with the Panamanian people so we can get rid of this dictatorship," Esquivel's letter concludes.

Commerce Minister on Economic Recovery
PA2004190888 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Mario Rognoni, Panamanian commerce and industry minister, has said it is false that General Noriega's departure will resolve the country's economic problem and that the United States will inject millions of dollars into our country. In this regard, Rognoni said Panama's economic recovery will take at least 2 years because of the nation's difficult economic situation. Rognoni said it is an illusion on the part of the nation's businessmen to believe that the United States will aid Panama with $1.2 billion after removing Gen Noriega.

PALA's Sieiro Urges Solution Through Dialogue
PA2204023188 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Interview with Ramon Sieiro, secretary general of the Panamanian Labor Party (PALA), by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sieiro] Based on our party's views, we have continued to engage in a dialogue. Although this has not been publicized, we have continued to explore the possibility of reaching an understanding between the PALA and other parties, both the UNADE [National Democratic Union] and the opposition. We believe we have made progress. We have reached agreement on some points, and we are still discussing other points and defining our views so we can go from theory to practice. The healthiest part of this is that PALA's initial view still prevails: Any call to dialogue among the Panamanian family should be heeded. We have talked to some parties that have differences among themselves, and we respect them. We do harbor the hope of reaching a consensus for a national understanding, however. We hope the views of only a single party will not prevail. We are quite flexible in this sense.

[Reporter] The crisis is getting worse, and the Panamanian people are suffering its effects. How much longer do you think it will be before this crisis is resolved?

[Sieiro] We believe that with every passing day, the crisis is causing our people even greater suffering. We must recognize the attitude of the Panamanian people, who have known how to act in these circumstances. We must also agree that those in charge of the political leadership must try to resolve the problem as soon as possible. Many years will pass before Panama reaches the growth level it had before June 1987. We therefore believe that the sooner this type of agreement is reached, the better it will be for our economy and for the rest of the countries around us. Perhaps we would have false expectations if we were to speak in terms of hours or days, because as a party we cannot predict this. It should emerge as the consensus of a dialogue. What we can say is that we are ready to sit down today, tomorrow, or whenever, and through that dialogue, I think we can come up with the solution to our country's great crisis.

Opposition Accused of Spreading Rumors
PA2204023688 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Since the opposition sectors have failed in their strategy carried out thus far to overthrow Manuel Solis Palma, they have launched a massive campaign to confuse the people, saying that the country is heading toward communism as of 1 May.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Government spokesmen have reiterated time and again that that rumor is completely false, that this country is definitely not heading toward socialism, and that this disinformation campaign only seeks to confuse our people. How much further will they go?

Teachers Protest at Education Ministry
PA2104003688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1925 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 20 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today several hundred professors and teachers protested in front of the Education Ministry building in this capital because they did not receive their salaries in cash.

The protest, during which the teachers waved their uncashed checks and shouted antigovernment slogans in front of the ministry building, lasted for more than 1 hour. The police did not disperse the demonstrators, who did not cause any disturbances.

Teachers and professors, carrying banners with slogans that read "democracy," "cash yes," "liberty yes," "pressure no," and "weapons no," also demanded payment of the bonus pay that is annually distributed in three payments to government employees.

Nestor Mendez, secretary general of the Association of Professors of the Republic, told ACAN-EFE that there are members of that organization who have up to five checks that they have not been able to cash as a result of the situation in the country.

For more than 1 and 1/2 months, Panamanian banks have not been providing services to the public under orders of the National Banking Commission, which were prompted by a massive withdrawal of funds as a result of the financial panic created by the country's political instability and a lack of confidence in the banking system.

There were no disturbances during the protest, although there was discreet vigilance by military agents and uniformed policemen.

Government Media Fires Three Journalists

PA2004161588 Paris AFP in Spanish 0420 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 19 Apr (AFP)—Three Panamanian journalists working for the progovernment Editora Renovacion, which prints the newspapers CRITICA, MATUTINO, and LA REPUBLICA, were dismissed "for ideological and political reasons," Luis Jimenez, one of the journalists affected by the measure, reported today.

However, a spokesman for the progovernment newspapers denied Jimenez' charges, stating that "it was only a reduction in force."

"We are here giving our faces and our lives for our country," Aladino Zambrano, LA REPUBLICA's chief editor said.

"What the letter says is false," Aladino stressed, adding that several communists write for the government's newspapers and are not being persecuted.

As an example, he mentioned that Carlos Changmarin, who is a member of the Central Committe of the Communist Party, and Bertalicia Peralta have been writing cultural and political columns in the government's newspapers for the past 10 years.

In an open letter addressed to Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Jimenez said his dismissal, as well as Luis Castilla Bravo's and Mireya Hernandez', is a measure to "get rid of the red" [desrojizar] in the newspapers.

In his note, Jimenez added that information in the government's newspapers is handled as "absurd red-chronicle journalism." [sentence as received]

The progovernment newspapers have been publishing daily articles against U.S. diplomatic and military policy since the political crisis between the two countries worsened.

According to Jimenez, the Journalists' Union is considering suing the progovernment newspapers for the dismissals, which it feels were "unjustified."

These are the first dismissals in the government media since the political crisis in Panama began 10 months ago.

In February, the government closed seven opposition media sources on charges of "actions against the economy and the established government." As a result, approximately 300 journalists, editors, typographers, and administrative employees are currently without jobs.

Briefs

Youth Group Established

During a news conference yesterday, Didimo Jaen Poyatos announced the establishment of the Union of Patriotic Youths [Union de Juventudes Patrioticas—UJP] to defend the dearest interests of the fatherland and Panamanian people. Jaen is the UJP's coordinator. [Summary] [*PA2004171088 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Apr 88 p 6*]

Argentina

Alfonsin Meeting With Abrams, Walters 'Cordial'

PY202148 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1650 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA)—Today President Raul Alfonsin met with Vernon Walters, U.S. representative to the United Nations, and Elliott Abrams, deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, to analyze the situation in Panama. During the meeting the Argentine president reaffirmed the principles of consolidation of democracy and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

This afternoon presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez reported on the meeting, which took place at the Olivos residence. He said the topics of foreign debt pressure on the incipient Latin American democracies and the Central American situation were also discussed.

Lopez said the meeting was "constructive, cordial, sincere, and informal." He added there were really two meetings. During the first meeting they were joined by all U.S. ambassadors to South America, and during the second, Alfonsin, Abrams, and Walters analyzed the topics in depth.

Lopez said the dignitaries "reviewed all current major Latin American problems."

Lopez said the president "reiterated Argentina's position on integration and the important role of the Group of Eight in fulfilling this goal." Argentina and other countries in the region form the Group of Eight.

Lopez said Alfonsin reiterated his "very firm" position on the need to resolve the serious economic situations created by the "unfair economic order currently in effect."

Lopez added that the meeting included "an analysis of the foreign debt and the need to find political ways to deal with it."

The presidential spokesman said that the president analyzed the Panamanian situation with Abrams and Walters: "The president reiterated that two basic principles must be taken into consideration: the consolidation of democracy and related freedoms; and the principle of nonintervention."

Spokesman on U.S. Arms, Spare Parts Talks

PY200428 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2143 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (NA)—Today Robert Pastorino, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for inter-American affairs, and Argentine Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena resumed the talks between the two countries with the intention of normalizing relations in the U.S. provision of weapons and spare parts.

Pastorino and Jaunarena talked for more than 1 hour at the Defense Ministry. U.S. Ambassador Theodore Gildred and Charles Norman Nielsen, U.S. military and Air Force attache, also participated in the meeting.

Faustino Altamirano, Jaunarena's spokesman, indicated that the meeting was a continuation of the talks the two officials held during Jaunarena's visit to Washington in 1987.

The crucial point of the talks lies in the removing of obstacles so that Argentina can once again buy U.S. weapons and spare parts. These supplies were suspended after the Malvinas war.

Before the South Atlantic conflict, the United States implemented the Humphrey-Kennedy bill against Argentina because a de facto government existed in this country, but in practice the bill became null and void when democracy was reestablished.

However, the U.S. legal resolution remained in force. This resolution states that any export of weapons to third countries must be approved by Congress, where the British lobby [preceding word in English] works very efficiently.

Defense Ministry sources have stated that the formal meetings to discuss the supply of weapons and spare parts will be held on 21 and 22 April with the participation of Jose Llados, defense production secretary.

At the end of today's meeting, Pastorino and Gildred declined to make any remarks, and they stated that on 22 April a final document will be released containing the topics that were discussed.

Deputy Calls for Inventory of British Assets

PY211831 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1340 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Resistencia, Chaco, 21 Apr (DYN)— Justicialist Party national Deputy Rafael Raul Sotelo has reported that he has submitted to the Chamber of Deputies a draft law that will authorize the Special Vigilance Commission, which was created by Law No 21,593, to begin an inventory of the assets of Great Britain and its subjects in the country, and to oversee them.

The deputy has based his draft law on Argentina's need to adopt measures established in current legislation.

He indicated that Law No 22,591 [number as received] establishes a series of measures that "the government has blatantly ignored."

Deputies to Submit Resolution on Panama

PY211522 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1340 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Apr (NA)—Last night the Justicialist Party and the UCR agreed to submit a draft resolution to the Chamber of Deputies in which they reiterate the need to defend the principle of non-intervention, especially in the case of Panama. The two parties have submitted the resolution at a time when an important U.S. delegation is visiting the country to obtain opinions on this critical topic.

The sources consulted this morning by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS indicated that the resolution, which without a doubt will be approved during the Chamber's next session, defends the Torrijos-Carter treaty, in which the United States has promised to give Panama control of the canal.

The decision was made last night during a series of consultations between Deputies Federico Storani UCR and Eduardo Vaca (Justicialist).

Columnist on Understandings With Cuba, Angola

PY202343 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Apr 88 pp 1, 4

[By columnist Daniel Lupa: "Relations with the United States"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] It does not seem strange that after the Argentine vote in the United Nations, which resulted from an understanding between Argentina and Cuba to avoid a formal inspection of Cuban territory to verify reports of punishment and torture of dissenters, Alfonsin foreign policy has just completed a scheme, through agreements signed by Dr Caputo in Luanda, Angola, under the apparently innocuous heading of "framework of agreement" for an exchange in the areas of mining, health, and agriculture.

Argentina has been paying in advance the price of opening a channel of close ties with a procommunist regime: It broke relations with South Africa, thus totally modifying a scheme for the defense of the South Atlantic. For this, Caputo was effusively thanked in Angola because the break signifies international support for the presence of Cuban troops in that country. He was especially thanked for the commitment Argentina assumed to the balance of power between communism and the rest of the regimes in Africa.

When he returns, Caputo should explain whether the rumors that circulated this weekend among European diplomats in Argentina are true or not. According to these rumors, other agreements, not officially announced, will eventually be signed. Under these agreements it is said that Argentina and Angola, together with Cuba, will establish some sort of triangular mutual consultations on some aspects of international political affairs.

In fact, the agreements to this effect that the Angolan regime has with Havana would be partially extended to Argentina. Since many, if not all, of these agreements revolve around Soviet foreign policy toward Africa and Latin America, the strange triangle that would be formed between Luanda, Buenos Aires, and Havana would establish a geostrategic scheme of greater significance than any so far conceived for Latin America.

In principle, the scheme for the defense of the South Atlantic on behalf of democracy and the West, based at two points on the American coast (Argentina and Brazil or Uruguay) and at one point on the African coast (South Africa) will be scrapped. The new scheme would henceforth give the Soviet Union three bases that would encompass slightly more than the South Atlantic: Angola on the African coast, Cuba in the Caribbean, and Argentina on the South American coast.

The agreements publicly or secretly signed between Argentina and Angola since last Sunday will be openly complemented by visits to Argentina by Angolan missions, exchange students, and experts. The Soviets have been making such visits since 31 January 1986, and the Cubans since an agreement was signed last year.

It seems unlikely that details of this scheme have not been included on the agenda of Vernon Walters, whether the U.S. Embassy confirms it or not. It is just as unlikely that Washington should be indifferent to this abrupt change in the political composition in this part of the continent.

The way in which Soviet interests have made an inroad into the region is one of the most significant turns in the process that began in 1983 with the Alfonsin government. A significant fact is that Washington has pulled the rug out from under many gestures that until recently could have added luster to the image of Dr Alfonsin. The prestige of the nation's president depended on his stance as a stalwart defender of human rights.

However, with this first ambiguous and then openly committed attitude of Alfonsin toward the Castro regime, his image has been changing rapidly among the Americans. This change, which is perceptible in talks with West European diplomats, is also noticeable in talks with diplomats of this region. [passage omitted]

Upon his return to Buenos Aires, the Argentine foreign minister should first explain the real reason behind his visit to six African countries and the extent to which the commitments he made, to the detriment of the country's political position, have been related to his ambitions of being elected president of the UN General Assembly.

He must also say whether or not he recently signed secret agreements with the procommunist regime of Luanda.

Caputo must explain why, on his arrival in Luanda, he was especially welcomed by Narciso Martin Mora, ambassador and so-called "commissar supervisor of the people" for the Angolan Government, in the name of Castro and the Soviet Union, which support the dictatorship of Jose Eduardo dos Santos. He should explain why, after his attendance was recorded, the first meeting was held in the important Cuban "bunker" in Luanda, the so-called House of Peace and Brotherhood, where Narciso Mora acts as "general manager."

In addition, Caputo must explain why he accepted, in all his meetings with high-ranking Angolan officials, the presence of the military and civilian officials who constitute the system of Cuban supervision in Angola. And finally, he must explain why he did not question the presence of 40,000 Cuban military personnel in Angola, although with "good humor" he publicly claimed that Argentina defends a resolution without foreign interference in Central America. He should give these basic explanations, which have so far not raised concern in the drowsy Argentine Congress, to the Argentine public, provided any sector of the country's political structure retains any interest and curiosity regarding how, and at what cost to the country, a favorable vote for Caputo as president of the UN General Assembly is negotiated. [passage omitted]

Authorities Confirm Heavy Water Spill

PY211617 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1157 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Apr (TELAM)—Eduardo Cohen, national director of Energy Programming and Energy Policy, has confirmed that in December 1987 there was an accident which caused a spill of 50 tons of heavy water within the Atucha Nuclear Plant. However, he asserted there was no nuclear threat because the heavy water was not contaminated since it had not yet been processed inside the reactor.

Cohen explained that the Atucha Nuclear Plant stopped operating in August 1987 for a scheduled maintenance program and it was scheduled to resume operating on 23 December 1987.

He added that due to an accident, the cause of which is included in a report that he did not have at hand but which was investigated by the CNEA, there was a spill of 50 tons of heavy water. In view of this a study was conducted at the nuclear plant into the possibility of reincorporating the water into the system. Therefore, instead of becoming operational in December as scheduled, the Atucha Nuclear Plant experienced a delay and it began operating on 20 April.

Cohen said this spill did not cause any danger because the heavy water was not contaminated since at the time of the accident the water was being pumped into the reactor; that is, it had not been processed inside the reactor. It was merely being pumped into the cooling system.

In a statement to Radio Rivadavia, Cohen asserted that while on this occasion there was no danger of contamination whatsoever, when this kind of accident occurs and heavy water comes into contact with other surfaces, there is the possibility of contamination. He said that while there was a spill, there was no nuclear threat.

Heavy water, also known as deuterium oxide, is a component similar to the water used as a moderator of neutrons in nuclear reactors.

Spokesmen Confirm Sourrouille Death Threat

PY201325 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0046 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (TELAM)—Economy Ministry spokesmen have confirmed that some days ago a letter was received that contains threats against the life of Economy Minister Juan Sourouille, who decided to report the incident to the competent authorities that are investigating the actions of the group that identifies itself as OAS-MRP [expansion unknown].

The spokesman indicated that the note, which had a pamphlet with the aforementioned acronym attached to it, was recieved on 15 April in an ordinary envelope that arrived at the ministry's reception desk, from where it was sent to the minister's private secretary.

The source added that the note was written on a typewriter and is similar to the note received by national Deputy Federico Storani.

Further on Break Up of Group of 'Terrorists'

PY201856 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 19 Apr (TELAM)—Last night and early this morning Federal Police carried out several raids in Buenos Aires and its suburbs, arrested six terrorists (one managed to escape), and confiscated an unprecedented number of weapons, ammunition, communications equipment, infrared telescopic night sights, and several explosive devices. [passage omitted]

This afternoon Federal Police Chief Juan Angel Pirker held a news conference at the Federal Police station in San Martin district, Buenos Aires Province. Pirker called the arrested individuals terrorists and gave a detailed description of the operations carried out by Federal Police personnel and directed by San Isidro federal Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti.

Pirker revealed the names of six people who have been arrested so far: Antonio Domingo Famularo, Julio Osvaldo Ianantuoni, Carlos Alberto Miranda, Francisco Deak, Ines Lidia Deligianis, and Sergio Sebastian Donofrio. He added that another terrorist is still at large.

During the raids, police confiscated a document signed by an alleged National Army in Operations and another one attributed to former Lieutenant Colonel Arturo Gonzalez Naya. [passage omitted]

Pirker said that initial investigations were focused on Antonio Domingo Famularo, who has a record of suspicious behavior. After being informed of Famularo's activities, Piotti—who has jurisdiction over Bella Vista, where Famularo lives—ordered the raids.

Piotti also explained that the Federal Police tapped the telephone at Famularo's house, at 710 Entre Rios Street in Bella Vista, Buenos Aires Province. This operation supplied useful information as well as the addresses of Famularo's accomplices.

The first raid took place at an apartment located at Juncal 2151 on the seventh floor, in the federal capital. At that location police arrested Julio Jorge Ianantuone, Carlos Alberto Miranda, and Francisco Deak and confiscated fuses, two TNT cakes, several detonators, a huge quantity of ammunition, forged identification cards, and several documents.

Famularo's residence, the starting point of the entire investigation, was raided simultaneously. Police seized weapons of various calibers and ammunition.

Another raid was conducted in this capital, in an apartment located on the second floor at 1528 Echeverria Street, and police arrested Ines Lidia Deligianis, a corporal of Federal Police 40th Precinct. Deligianis lived with an individual who, according to Pirker, is one of the leaders of the terrorist cell and is currently at large.

In the aforementioned location, which was kept under surveillance by the Internal Affairs Superintendency of the Federal Police, weapons, ammunition of various calibers, forged documents, and drawings and mimeographed documents of politicians and military and national officials were seized. [passage omitted]

Pirker added that in the last raid, conducted at 247 Maza Street, Buenos Aires, police arrested a man identified as Sergio Sebastian Donofrio, an armorer by profession.

In this house, located in the Almagro neighborhood, police confiscated a huge quantity of ammunition and light weapons, which had to be carried to the Federal Police San Martin Precinct in a truck because the materiel did not fit in the cars used in the operation. [passage omitted]

Helicopters Found

PY201901 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1539 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (TELAM)—Federal Judge Alberto Daniel Piotti of San Isidro has confirmd that two helicopters, one of them dismantled, were found at the San Fernando airfield. The helicopters may belong to individuals arrested recently in the break up of an extremist cell.

Piotti told TELAM that he was told about the helicopters by Federal Police Chief Juan Angel Pirker, who phoned him in his office.

Federal Judge Closes National Alert Office

PY202136 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1650 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (TELAM)—Federal Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal has closed the headquarters of the ultrarightist organization National Alert, at 286 Santiago del Estero Street, 6th floor, office No 1, after inspecting the area.

The judge inspected the office with lawyer Jorge Luis Pagani. The latter is defending National Alert leader Alejandro Carlos Biondini, who has been arrested, along with second-in-command Enrique Barrios.

It has been learned that motions for habeas corpus on behalf of Leopoldo Julio Godoy, Alberto Assef, and Hugo Esteba have been dismissed.

As for the request for information from the Interior Ministry and the federal police, it was reported that no appropriate authority has ordered restrictions on the freedom of Godoy, Assef, and Esteba, whose names appeared on a list that was made public after Biondini was questioned.

No Casualties in Bomb Attack in Mendoza

PY201932 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Police have reported that this morning a bomb went off in the repair shop of a transport company in the Mendoza Department. The bombing caused minor damages but no casualties.

Bomb Partially Destroys Vehicle Near Cordoba

PY211243 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1212 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Cordoba, 21 Apr (TELAM)— An explosive device exploded early this morning in a house located in Capilla del Monte, Punilla Valley, 110 km from this capital.

Radio Universidad, the local radio station, reported that the house belongs to Oscar Cordoba and that the explosion occurred in the garage of the house. The vehicle parked in the garage was partially destroyed.

Bolivia

MBL Proposes Aranibar as Presidential Candidate

PY201426 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] The Free Bolivia Movement [MBL] has proposed Antonio Aranibar as presidential candidate of the leftist parties' coalition in the 1989 general elections. This information has been given to Radio Panamericana by MBL leader Alfonso Alem.

Alem has said that Aranibar's name has been proposed as the coalition's presidential candidate because the MBL has won the largest number of votes among the leftist forces in the municipal elections. This is why my party intends to maintain this place of privilege granted by the people's vote, Alem said.

Alem added that Antonio Aranibar has begun the second stage of his presidential campaign. He said that Aranibar has begun a number of visits to urban and rural areas in Cochabamba Department. These visits will be extended for a 15-day period, he said.

Alem recalled that the MBL has extended a proposal for unity to all leftist forces. He said that this proposal has been extended to the Patriotic Alliance [Alianza Patriotica], to the Socialist Party One, to the Socialist Fatherland [Patria Socialista], and to the Tupaj Karati Movement. The MBL is seeking a meeting to discuss the unity proposal for the organization of a political coalition for the 1989 elections.

Brazil

Sarney on Need for Modern, Integrated Economy

PY210108 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] This morning President Jose Sarney presided over the diplomats day ceremony at Itamaraty Palace.

The chief of state opened the ceremony by greeting the 25 new diplomats who graduated from the Rio Branco Institute last year and gave them a description of the country they will represent.

In his speech, President Sarney noted the importance of a modern economy that is integrated with the rest of the world.

[Begin Sarney recording] Success has accompanied those who have followed the great international commercial trends of investment and technological development, those who have added instead of subtracted, those who have exercised openness and integration, instead of isolating themselves, those who, in sum, have developed the necessary conditions to adequately participate in the great adventure of development, which brings increasing prosperity and well-being.

We have the necessary human and natural resources to face this challenge. Santiago Dantas used to say that nothing is more difficult than to be independent; nothing is more difficult than to assume one's own responsibilities. [end recording]

Later, President Sarney said it is time to break away from anachronistic concepts and practices.

[Begin Sarney recording] We have a commitment to modern times. The time has come to break away from anachronistic concepts and practices. The state is capable of many achievements and must make every effort for the benefit of society. Over the last decades, however, the state has grown in such a way in Brazil that it has inhibited rather than encouraged. I am firmly convinced that we must reverse this trend. Brazil cannot go against history. An increasing trend toward openness can be observed in the world, not as an ideology but rather as a means of getting rid of the obstacles that hinder development. [end recording]

President Sarney then participated in the Rio Branco Order award ceremony, during which 310 individuals, including ministers, governors, legislators, sportsmen, artists, journalists, diplomats, military men, and others were decorated.

President Sarney had lunch at Itamaraty and then returned to Planalto Palace.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Signs Agreements

PY201309 La Paz La Red Panamericana is Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] After signing basic agreements on Bolivian gas sales to Brazil, Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez will return to the country today. Yesterday, the Bolivian foreign minister held meetings with several Brazilian officials and signed important agreements for trade expansion with Brazil.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry has reported that Bedregal took a personal message from President Victor Paz Estenssoro to his Brazilian counterpart, Jose Sarney.

Bedregal and Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre signed the first agreements that provide for the conclusion in May of the negotiations that began during Hugo Banzer's government.

Bolivia is willing to sell important amounts of gas to Brazil. For this purpose, a gas pipeline will be built between the two countries in addition to other integration projects. The construction of the gas pipeline will be accompanied by other projects for the creation of binational industries along the Brazilian-Bolivian borders that will promote other projects of greater importance.

The Bolivian foreign minister will first inform President Victor Paz Estenssoro of the results of his visit to Brazil, and then he will provide the appropriate information to the press so that the entire nation will be informed.

USSR Interested in Brazilian-Made Computers

PY220127 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 20 Apr 88 p 39

["Radar" page]

[Text] In the second half of this year, the Soviet Union will send an expert from the computer science committee to Brazil, where he will talk with Brazilian microcomputer manufacturers. The idea is to propose the creation of a joint venture with Brazilian industrialists to supply 1.5 million microcomputers to the Soviet market. The microcomputers are to be used in areas of education, agriculture, medicine, and public service. The Soviet comrades were quite impressed by what they saw at the recent computer fairs in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Businessmen on Negotiations With USSR

PY200421 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 88 p 22

[Text] Sao Paulo—The Soviets are already negotiating with Brazilian businessmen over the sale of a complete gas bottling unit worth $50 million. The unit, which has Soviet technology and technical assistance, is being negotiated with Amazongas, a Brazilian capital company headquartered in the industrial district of Manaus. The company intends to use the gas of the Amazonian region to supply the area, exporting the surplus to neighboring countries.

This and other deals that the USSR is negotiating in Brazil and in South America have been reported by Saena Group President Marcio Miranda, who has negotiated with the Soviets since 1962 and who is the exclusive representative of Soviet-made machines in Brazil and South America. Since that year, the Saena Group has imported more than 3,000 machines into the Brazilian market. Miranda expects to sell at least $4 million worth of driving machines [maquinas matrices] in Brazil alone this year.

Miranda, who is ready to open an office in Moscow to act as middleman in the sale of Soviet machines and equipment to South America, said that with glasnost the opening of the Soviet economy is tending to increase because the Soviets are willing to intensify their dealings with other countries.

An experienced businessman who is well aware of the characteristics of the Soviet market, which he learned through his father, Jair Miranda—the founder of the Saena Group, which in 1962 became the exclusive representative of the Soviet-made driving machines in Brazil—Marcio Miranda stressed that in the case of Brazil, the Soviet strategy seeks to balance the trade between the two countries.

The balance of power [as published] is registering a considerable surplus in favor of Brazil. For example, it can be recalled that last year Brazilian exports to the USSR reached $437.2 million, while its imports were $83.6 million. To reach a balance, the USSR has formed joint ventures [preceding two words in English] with Brazilian companies, seeking to increase its sales on the Brazilian market, Miranda explained.

As an example, the businessman recalled that recently, Soyuzplodoimport, which is a Soviet state-run company, formed a partnership with the Companhia Cacique de Cafe Soluvel and the Teachers and Sons do Brasil, creating Plodimex do Brasil. This company will import Soviet vodka, which will be bottled in Brazil and sold all over Latin America. In addition, Plodimex will act as middleman in all the deals in the agriculture and livestock sector between Brazil and the USSR.

The Saena group is considering the possibility of joining a mining group to establish a plant for manufacturing driving machines that are not currently built in Brazil, with Soviet technology. In the area of machines and equipment, the Saena Group is forming a joint venture with Solpeza, a company headquartered in Argentina that is the exclusive representative of Soviet tractors and cranes in Argentina. The objective of the joint venture is to act as the middleman in all the deals in the sector in Latin America, Miranda said.

Fourth Increase in Fuel Prices Implemented

PY201918 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] The National Oil Council has authorized another increase in fuel prices. Petrol will now cost 74.60 cruzados; alcohol, 48.70; diesel oil, 34.60; and cooking gas will now cost 360 cruzados [per leter].

This is the fourth increase in fuel prices this year.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1401 GMT on 20 April states that these increases represent a 16-percent price hike, thereby bringing to year-to-date hike to 80 percent]

Chile

Pinochet Discusses Opposition, Plebiscite

PY201530 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today the head of state discussed Marxism-Leninism, an ideology that is infiltrating so many countries and destroying so many lives.

The chief executive also commented on those who travel abroad to obtain funds to promote opposition campaigns against the government.

Pinochet make these and other remarks to the Nunoa community at the Manuel Plaza gymnasium, where he presided over a ceremony marking the 96th anniversary of the populous Nunoa district.

Speaking to a high-spirited audience, Pinochet focused on the issue of a stable democracy:

[Pinochet] "Our (?detractors) have been trying to twist, to misrepresent the problem. They have been trying to retrogress, to go back to September 1973.

"What is more important is that this country does not spend millions of dollars on propaganda; we use that money to build homes. [applause, shouts]

"On the contrary, except for a few honorabale exceptions, these politicians have nothing else in mind but destruction. They want to retrogress. With this goal in mind, they go to foreign countries to lie, to fool foreign organizations to [words indistinct] money, trying to buy the opinion of Chileans. "

Amid strong and unremitting applause, the chief executive also expressed thanks for being named an honorary citizen of the Nunoa district. Referring to those who receive foreign money, Pinochet said:

[Pinochet] "I can assure you that they will receive the money, but souls will not be sold. [applause, shouts]

"(?They will continue to lie and will continue to plead). They have nothing else in mind but to go and get money. (?Who knows) how much money they are sticking in their own pockets and in the pockets of their buddies. [laughs] "

In an impromptu speech, President Pinochet also discussed the plebiscite:

[Pinochet] "This way, ladies and gentleman, we have reached 1988, the year of the decision. This is a period of waiting, a period of waiting that will culminate with the plebiscite.

"I am convinced that this nation, which is intelligent, will grasp what the real problem is and vote yes, in favor of the Constitution. [shouts, applause]"

During the expressions of allegiance to the head of state by Nunoa residents, in addition to the warm welcome at the gymnasium, there were spontaneous expressions of affection by students, workers, professionals, housewives, and representatives of civic organizations.

At the ceremony, Nunoa Mayor Pedro Sabat praised the Pinochet administration and emphasized the importance of the yes vote in the upcoming plebiscite for Chilean development.

Pinochet Not To Intervene in Railway Strike

PY211622 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0254 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 20 Apr (EFE)—Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet will not intervene in the strike that more than 6,000 railway workers have been staging for 9 days.

The presidential decision, which was made public a few hours ago, caused unrest and disappointment among the railway workers who have been hoping that Pinochet would find a definitive solution to the strike.

On 19 April, Catholic Bishop Orozimbo Fuenzalida, who has acted as mediator between the parties in conflict, asked Pinochet to intervene in the strike which, according to him, could lead to violence if it gets worse.

DINACOS has reported in a communique that Gen Pinochet has told Fuenzalida that the railway workers strike should be resolved by the parties in conflict, and in accordence with the law.

DINACOS added that for Pinochet, "the main basic reason for the turn the conflict has taken is the refusal of the organizations in conflict to relinquish their demands, which are really unacceptable for any authority."

The communique ends by stating that "the strike is unquestionably illegal."

The railway workers decided to go on strike to demand the removal of the state-owned enterprise director Roberto Darrigrandi, who dismissed 17 union leaders and some 100 workers, charging them with instigating and calling for a stoppage 13 days ago.

Today the CNT [National Workers Command] began a campaign to collect money that will be delivered to the railway workers and their families.

Manuel Bustos, CNT president, told EFE that the CNT has set 28 April as the deadline for the military government to find a solution; otherwise, the CNT will call for a national protest.

Officials on State of Exception, Plebiscite

PY210349 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Today the interior minister said the government will not be carried away by a partisan and political confrontation that could distort the real purpose of the plebiscite. The minister had participated in a cabinet meeting earlier today.

President Pinochet presided over the cabinet meeting in which the interior, foreign affairs, and finance ministers spoke. The interior minister referred to the domestic situation and current political events.

The ministers talked about the strategy of the extremists who wish to create conditions favoring revolutionary violence.

Orlando Poblete, minister secretary general of government, officially reported on the cabinet meeting. The interior minister, he said, has explained that certain measures of exception have been declared so the government can use all legal means to protect the people from terrorist aggression. This is a duty the government will never shirk despite criticism from political opponents, he said.

Regarding the political reality, Poblete said the country is going through a pre-electoral process in which opposition sectors should adopt an honest position regarding the plebiscite.

[Begin Poblete recording] The government understands that in order to carry out a plebiscite fairly and openly, the opposition leaders should at least be honest regarding their strategic plans.

By this we mean the opposition is trying to conceal its real objectives behind seemingly moderate language in order to obtain the electoral support of those not identified with its true objectives.

Contrary to the political honesty the country needs, the opposition pretends to want reform when it actually seeks to upset the status quo and thus plunge the country into chaos. [end recording]

Poblete also said the people must not be deceived regarding the real objectives of the plebiscite and they must reflect on the real importance of their vote.

DINACOS Answers PN Criticism of Government

PY200330 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Tonight DINACOS [National Social Communication Agency] released a communique rebutting statements that National Party [PN] leaders made during a television program.

Concerning the proposal to increase taxes on foreign investment and on the income of individuals and corporations, the communique explains that Chile's problem will not be resolved by raising taxes, because taxes do not generate wealth and progress, as they provide the means to take money from the private sector and channel it toward the state, which uses it for its own work.

DINACOS says the government knows a country makes progress and increases its income when the level of work and investment increase, adding that the reduction of taxes allows more resources for the creation of new jobs, because it promotes investment. This is why, the communique goes on, that the goverment last year introduced several changes in the tax regulations, so the country can continue to receive new capital contributions that may accelerate our development.

Concerning the political leaders' remarks that the success in the export of lumber products, which has been promoted by the government, has actually been produced by policies that were implemented before this government term, the communique stresses that the export policies are the exclusive property of this government and, consequently, no one can attribute them to others.

'Socialist Command for the No Vote' Established

PY202217 Santiago ANALISIS in Spanish 11-17 Apr 88 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] There are signs of optimism and a desire to work, and the mystique has been recovered. All those who form part of the Socialist Command for the No Vote [Comando Socialista Por el No] are determined not to let it become just another organization or acronym. The purpose of the Command is to dynamize the participation of the left in political events in the country, including the announced plebiscite. The Command for the No Vote, which was publicly launched on Wednesday, 13 April, is presided over by Luis Maira. Victor Barrueto, Juan Pablo Cardenas, German Correa, Humberto Diaz Casanueva, Julio Jung, Carmen Lazo, Anibal Palma, and Moy de Toha are vice presidents of the new organization, which includes a council of more than 50 outstanding individuals from the political, professional, and cultural fields, and a foreign committee formed by socialist leaders who still live in exile. Raul Diaz has been appointed executive secretary.

The idea of forming this new organization appeared shortly after the political parties it comprises—the Socialist Party, Almeyda-led faction; the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement]; the Christian Leftist Party; and the Radical Party, Luengo-led faction—signed the declaration of 13 political parties in favor of the no vote last February. This organization, in the opinion of many analysts, represented a significantly different move by the opposition. [passage omitted]

After several meetings the four political parties made public the decision to form the command and announced that "the people, in an organized manner, and mobilized before, during, and after the plebiscite, are capable of politically defeating the regime and opening the path for a return to democracy." [passage omitted]

PRN Expels Vice President; Split Threatened

PY212326 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Andres Chadwick, a member of the political commission of the UDI [Independent Democratic Union], has admitted that his faction might leave the

National Renewal Party, PRN, to protest the expulsion of Jaime Guzman, one of its vice presidents. Yesterday afternoon, the PRN supreme tribunal notified Guzman, through public notary Andres Rubio, of his expulsion from the party. The measure goes into effect immediately, and the party's secretary was ordered to take the administrative steps to ensure its implementation. Radio Chilena spoke with Andres Chadwick, who said the measure was unfair and arbitrary:

[Begin Chadwick recording] I do not feel like working in a party that expels its vice president, especially when it is a person like Jaime Guzman. It is true that we share the same ideas and principles, but these ideas are implemented by people, and their leadership and conduct is very important within the party. I believe Jaime Guzman is the person who best represents the ideals of our party. Therefore, if the supreme tribunal's final decision is to expel Guzman from the PRN, which would be arbitrary and unfair, I personally do not think there is any reason to continue participating in this party. [end recording]

Jaime Guzman was accused of serious acts of indiscipline, violation of PRN principles and regulations, and improper conduct, seriously damaging the interests and prestige of the party. [passage omitted]

Media Time Guaranteed for Political Parties
PY220206 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Interior Ministry adviser Carlos Goni has stated that radio and television time slots for political advertising will be clearly and effectively guaranteed for all sectors.

He thus replied to criticism raised by Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Patricio Aylwin of the draft bill which will create a national radio and television council. Goni said the PDC leader should rest assured that it will be impossible for television channels to engage in political maneuvering during the plebiscite, as the PDC did in 1970.

Goni said that political advertising will be clearly and effectively guaranteed within a framework of fairness and [words indistinct] for all political sectors. This shows that all criticism is not valid, he said.

The new law, he said, which will recognize the current television channels, opens the television field to private enterprise. This means that from now on, real social control mechanisms will guarantee freedom and pluralism in television.

Vicariate Reports Rights Violations Increase
PY222234 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] According to attorneys Hector Contreras and Hernan Rodriguez of the Vicariate of Solidarity, the worst cases of human right violations in Chile during the first part of the year are the CNI [National Intelligence Center] arrests and torture of people in secret detention centers and the increased campaign of political kidnappings and threats. The attorneys also reported on the identification of the murderers of Pedro Marin Novoa in Pudahuel in 1983.

They added that during the first months of the year the CNI arrested and tortured six people in secret detention center. Attorney Hernan Rodriguez explains:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Among the most serious violations are the arrest by the CNI of some people who were taken to secret or clandestine detention centers for several hours. According to the law, the CNI can arrest people, but neither this organization nor any other organization can take anyone to secret or clandestine detention centers. This has happened with at least six people since mid March. [end recording]

These people were apparently taken by the CNI to the detention center to be interrogated. This caused them illegal and unnecessary distress. In all cases those under arrest were handed over to the Investigative Police or the military courts. Charges against three of them have already been dismissed.

Rodriguez stressed that this is absolutely illegal because the Constitution does not allow the CNI to arrest or interrogate people.

The vicariate lawyers said the number of people kidnapped and forcefully interrogated in secret places or vehicles has been on the increase, and they added that lately there have been more than 100 cases of threats against people's lives.

Vicariate lawyer Hector Contreras also reported that the inquiry into the murder of Pedro Marin Munoz [name as heard] has been closed.

The incident occurred in Pudahuel in September 1983. Municipal officials were preparing to take PEM [Minimum Salary Program] personnel to the 11 September celebrations when they got involved in a violent clash. Pedro Marin Munoz was killed and Victor Nunez Alvarado was wounded during the ensuing shootout in which Pudahuel Mayor (Eduardo Bajut) participated. Attorney Contreras reported on the findings of the 26th Criminal Court investigation:

[Begin Contreras recording] Carlos Gonzalez Radacovich and Joaquin Justo Pina have been identified as the perpetrators of the homicide of Pedro Manuel Marin

Novoa. They are also charged with seriously injuring Victor Nunez Alvarado and illegally possessing weapons. Luis Roberto Seledon Isla and Raul Arevalo Cruz are accused of covering up the homicide and aggravated assault. [end recording]

These individuals were members of a group that protected members of the municipal administration of Mayor (Bajut), who was also charged with complicity in the homicide, aggravated assault, and illegal possession of weapons.

Ministry Raps PDC Member on Bolivian Sea Outlet

PY220118 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Christian Democrat Renan Fuentealba, who allegedly expressed support for an outlet to the sea for Bolivia to a newspaper of La Paz, is contradicting the position he, himself, maintained in 1965, when he headed a Chilean delegation to the United Nations.

This statement was made by Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci, who recalled that on that occasion, Renan Fuentealba reasserted the traditional Chilean stance on Bolivia's landlocked situation, which has remained unchanged since the 1904 Peace Treaty was signed.

Ducci said the Foreign Ministry only learned about Fuentealba's alleged statement through press reports.

[Begin Ducci recording] Regarding what Mr Fuentealba supposedly said in La Paz, I would like to point out that in the first place, the Foreign Ministry only learned about his comments through press reports on what the La Paz media said that Fuentealba had said. I want to make this quite clear. In the second place, it should be stated that Chile's position on this issue is quite clear and well known. It is not a new stance; it is in keeping with the treaties and [words indistinct]. This position has been upheld by all our governments. I would like to recall that when Fuentealba was a senator in 1965, he headed a Chilean delegation to the UN General Assembly, where he refuted a motion by the Bolivian representative by listing the exact terms of this traditional Chilean position. [end recording]

The Christian Democratic senator had allegedly told the La Paz daily PRESENCIA that he upheld a [words indistinct] and sovereign outlet to the Pacific for Bolivia.

Bomb Blast in Peldehue Kills 2, Injures 2

PY201734 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Two workers were killed, one was seriously injured, and a fourth worker suffered minor injuries as a result of an explosion that occurred in the Peldehue fields, near Colina.

The workers killed were identified by police as Jose Rodriguez Gaete, 39, and Victor Jara Campos, 33, both of whom were married and worked for the Tex Curtain Co.

Meanwhile, Raul Rosban Barreras was hospitalized at the Hospital del Trabajador with extremely serious injuries. Rosban Barreras suffered the traumatic amputation of his right arm and multiple injuries in his head and legs, caused by shrapnel.

A four worker, identified as Victor Tejos Antilaz, suffered minor injuries.

The explosion occurred on km 36 of the international highway linking Los Andes with Mendoza.

Investigations are under way to determine what caused the powerful bomb to explode.

Peru

Shining Path Kills Lieutenant Governor

PY211358 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0350 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 20 Apr (EFE)—Today it was reported in an Andean town of Anco district, La Mar Province, Ayacucho, that the Anco District lieutenant governor and two local community leaders were shot by some 30 alleged members of Maoist Shining Path.

Police sources reported that the murder occurred on 19 April and that Anco Mayor David Chinchay, who was seriously injured in the attack, was brought to Ayacucho by helicopter and has been hospitalized.

Lieutenant Governor Fortunato Calle, and Manuel Zevallos and Marino Rocca—members of the "peasant militia," a civil defense group that fights subversion—were shot dead by a heavily-armed Shining Path column.

The report states that the mayor survived the attack only because the terrorists thought he was dead.

The report then states that after killing the three people, the terrorists burned down houses and stole foodstuffs and cattle.

On 17 April, the lieutenant governor of Mainay, in Huanta Province, Ayacucho Department, was similarly murdered.

Travelers and drivers coming from La Mar have reported that on 17 April, a Shining Path column comprising some 80 people killed at least 21 villagers of Apurimac River valley settlements, in the Ayacucho jungle.

Uruguay

Tupamaros Weekly To Rent Radio Air Time

PY211519 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] A MLN [National Liberation Movement Tupamaros] mouthpiece will probably rent air time on our sister radio station, CX-44 Radio Panamericana. The Tupamaro weekly, MATE AMARGO, will soon reach an agreement to rent air time on most of CX-44 Radio Panamericana's programs.

Reliable sources have confirmed this information and revealed that the cotracting parties will sign the appropriate documents and the deal will be closed next weekend.

Venezuela

Borders Reinforced Against Drug Traffickers

PA2204043188 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Today Defense Minister General Eleodoro Guerrero Gomez announced that the country's borders will be reinforced because of recent attacks by drug traffickers in the western region.

Venezuelan Armed Forces posts along the Colombian border have been attacked. This situation has led the Defense Ministry to order the reinforcement of strategic points, especially in the west, with additional personnel and arms.

This information was provided by the defense minister, who was also asked about the acquisition of arms and helicopters by the Armed Forces. He said:

[Begin recording] [Guerrero] We are studying that.

[Reporter] But are you in favor of such a purchase?

[Guerrero] Definitely. [end recording]

COPEI Nominates Presidential Candidate

PA2104020588 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Report by Maria Mercedes Gutierrez from unidentified Caracas hotel]

[Excerpts] This is a live report from a hotel in eastern Caracas. The COPEI has just nominated Eduardo Fernandez as its presidential candidate. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Fernandez urged all COPEI followers and all the country's political forces to join a process of democratic struggle on 2 May, when the presidential campaign begins. [passage omitted]

Guyana

Strife in Conservative Opposition Group

FL181515 Bridgetown CANA in English 1459 GMT 18 Apr 88

[text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 18, CANA—The United Republic Party (URP), a conservative opposition group launched in the United States three years ago, has been hit by internal strife as rival factions battle for control of the still fledgling organisation, the independent STABOREK NEWS newspaper reported in its current edition.

The newspaper said that the leadership of the URP is trying to fight off a challenge from another group and is seeking legal advice on action it should take.

The URP was launched in New York City with the aim of offering a rightwing alternative to the Marxist-Leninist opposition People's Progressive Party (PP) of Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

The STABOREK NEWS quoted Vishnu Bandhu, chairman of the group which announced the party's existence at a news conference here last year, as saying a rival group was now trying to get into power.

But head of this group, Dr. Kamal Roy Narine, charged that party members are dissatisfied with the old leadership and are demanding an elected executive council.

Guyana's politics is dominated by the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), a socialist political party founded by late President Forbes Burnham in the 1950's, and which has held office continuously since 1964.

Principal opposition is provided by the PPP, with the socialist Working People's Alliance and the rightwing United Forces completing the picture.

Suriname

Archbishop: Government Studying Rebel Proposal

FL191559 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] The head of the Surinamese Committee of Christian Churches says he is optimistic the group can help resolve the conflict between the government and rebels led by former Army Sergeant Ronnie Brunswijk. The group including committee head Archbishop Alouisius Zichem met with Mr Brunswijk earlier this month to hear demands. He said the Surinamese Government is studying a rebel proposal to officially declare an end to all hostilities in Suriname.